

1990-1999

VACAVILLE

THE PAST CENTURY



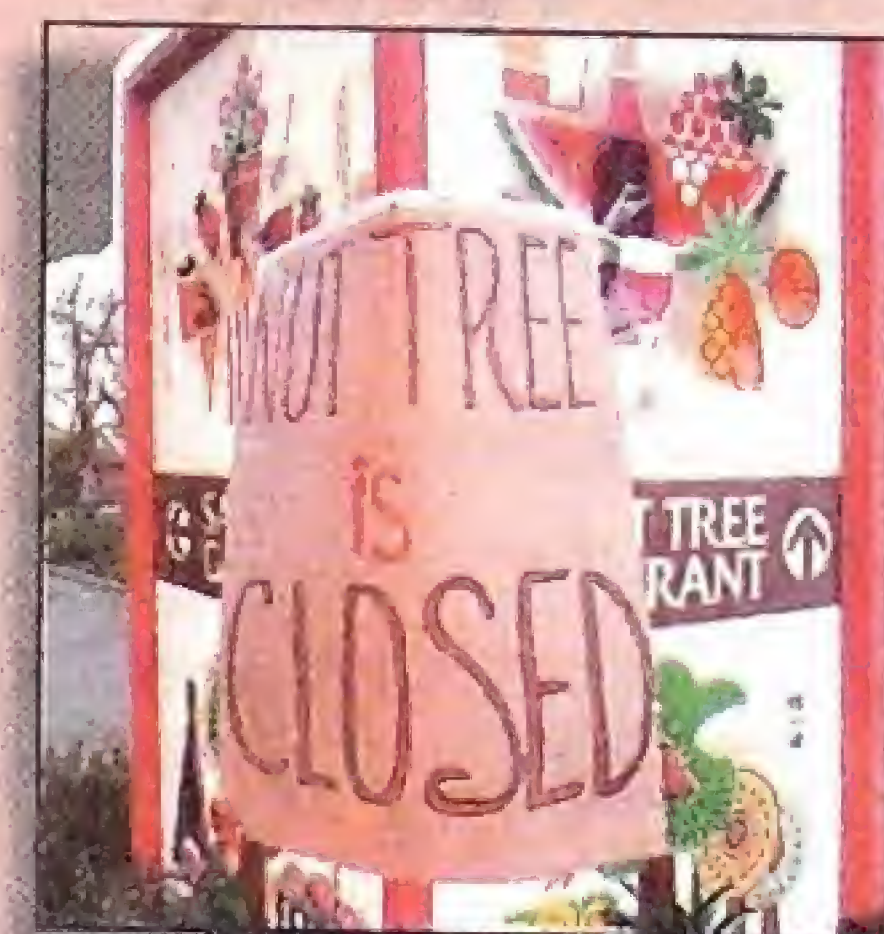
A firefighter (above) douses the blazing Great Wonders Playground, built and rebuilt by volunteers. Four simple words (below) tell the fate of a landmark, the Nut Tree.

Remembering the past, ready for the future

By Richard Rico / Editor & Publisher

There was a time when a sea change just made the pendulum swing. In the '90s it did loop the loops.

We saw it, that long-awaited light at the end of the tunnel. By now, though, we were so wise in the ways of the world that we knew it was a train coming the other way. We stood on the tracks anyway. We had weathered all that the century had hurled at us, and it was a ton. But we were still here, and that fooled us into believing that we were bulletproof.



Who could blame us? We were of the '90s, the latest models of evolution, both 20th century specimens of human development and latent horsemen of the apocalypse. Our shrouds and our wings were interchangeable. We were the sum of the century's parts, shaped and tempered by triumph and tragedy, wars and loves; peace, prosperity and pestilence. It all played against curious human qualities that shone as brightly at the end of the century as they did at the beginning: Faith and Hope. With a dash of Optimism.

We all carry the DNA of the human experience. Our generations entered this (Continued on Page 6)



Even with the Nut Tree closing, commerce was strong with the Vacaville Commons (top), Factory Stores, Power Plaza and several other major businesses locating here. Having enough classroom space was a problem, as always. Children (above) attended classes at local churches in 1990 while Callison Elementary School was completed. And another Vacan, Jermaine Dye (right), made it into professional baseball, first with the Atlanta Braves and then the Kansas City Royals.



Our past leads to our future

This is the final chapter of "Vacaville: The Past 100 Years," The Reporter's 10-month retrospective on the city's history.

It has been a voyage into a past of hope and destitution, growth and disaster, prosperity and poverty, joy and sadness, birth and death. It has been our story.

Vacaville has ridden the crest of the past 100 years, a surge that will carry us into the year 2000 and into the next millennium.

What we've learned in the past and from the past will carry us there with the grit and determination that has safeguarded Vacans for 100 years.

In this chapter, we look at the 1990s. New issues arise, old issues reappear, but in the end, Vacaville and Vacans will persevere.

As we remember the '90s, we also look ahead, ahead to Vacaville and the next 100 years.

Growth battle

Battle lines are drawn over urban growth. / Page 3

Youth focus

Innovative, forward-thinking programs born. / Page 13

Blooming business

Commerce reels from recession and turns to biotech and retail. / Page 4

Water ways

From drought to drenched. / Page 9

Education

Growth forces new schools to sprout up. / Page 13

Travis

Air Force personnel sent to all corners of the globe. / Page 15

LITHIA TOYOTA OF VACAVILLE

the future

Cars like the Prius lead Toyota into the next Century.



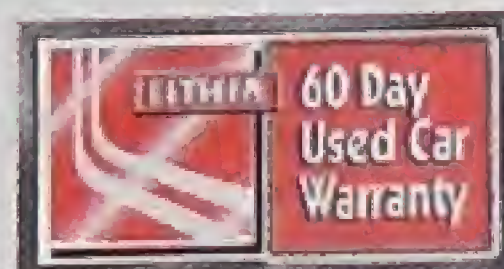
Utilizing both gasoline and electric power,
the **Toyota Prius** gets better gas mileage than an ordinary car,
yet emits less pollution.

The sophisticated computer system that operates the engine of the Toyota Prius gives the vehicle both the gas mileage and lowered costs of an electric car, but the acceleration and driving range of a gas powered engine. Using gas and electricity at the same time ensures acceleration, yet the engine uses

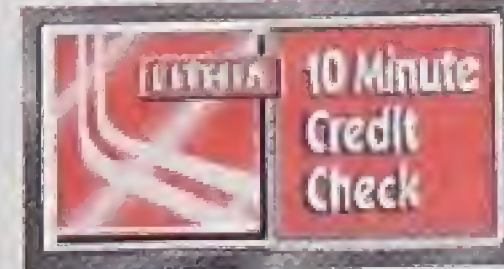
electricity alone on light roads and downgrades for lower emissions. Those new and innovative ideas which culminated in projects like the Toyota Prius insure that Toyota will remain a world leader well into the next century and beyond.



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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

VACAVILLE THRIVES THROUGH '90s

Economy gives birth to Vaca growth wars

By Mike Adamick
Staff Writer

Vacaville grew rapidly in the 1980s, averaging 1,248 new homes each year. As the 1990s approached, the city was ready to do battle over urban growth.

A ballot referendum opposing development in Lagoon Valley, a change of vision on the City Council and, largely, an economic recession imposed a truce on the growth war and slowed development. During the decade, only about 439 new homes were built each year.

Now, as the sun sets on the 20th century, warring parties on both sides of the residential housing issue are gearing up for another fight, and already there have been heated exchanges about where and when to grow. Once again, Lagoon Valley is among the territories being fought over.

At the beginning of the decade, Vacaville residents, led by the Orderly Growth Committee, rallied against development in Lagoon Valley. They gathered more than 6,000 signatures on a referendum opposing growth there, but before the measure went to voters, the City Council voted to remove upper Lagoon Valley from the Vacaville's growth plans. The 1990 move came as a surprise to many, since three councilmembers favored development.

Still, Lower Lagoon Valley received a green light for building — a light that once illuminated BankAmerica's now-defunct plans for an office and residential development.

In 1990, voters reconfigured the City Council, electing and re-electing three people who campaigned to slow the city's growth rate: Ernest Kimme, Pauline Clancy and former councilman-turned-Mayor David Fleming.

The council in 1991 adopted a Planned Growth Ordinance, which capped the number of new homes at 750 per year. The new ordinance also made it difficult for developers to secure building loans because of redundant permit processes.

The move came just as an economic recession throttled the housing market.

One real estate report ranked Solano County as among the 20 worst markets in the country, based on a 4 percent decline in

home values between July 1994 and July 1995. Layoffs at the closing Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo was just one of many factors causing the slump, which did have an upside: The drop in values provided stunning deals for first-time home buyers.

In 1996, local home prices not only failed to rebound, they dropped a little more. The North Solano County Association of Realtors reported the median price for homes sold during the first 11 months of the year was \$135,500, down 3.3 percent from \$140,133 for the same period a year earlier.

Vacaville saw vibrant economic boosts in the 1990s, despite the closure of some longtime landmarks. The Nut Tree closed Jan. 24, 1996. Three years later, the fruit stand-turned-restaurant saw construction of a baseball stadium as the lynchpin for redevelopment efforts that will include an amusement park and specialty stores.

Downtown's Basic American Foods plant, which closed in the 1980s, was redeveloped in the '90s to include a 16-screen movie theater, an ice skating rink and several offices. A gas-powered trolley is now planning to run from the Davis Street development to the Main Street area, where a town square and creek-walk are being built.

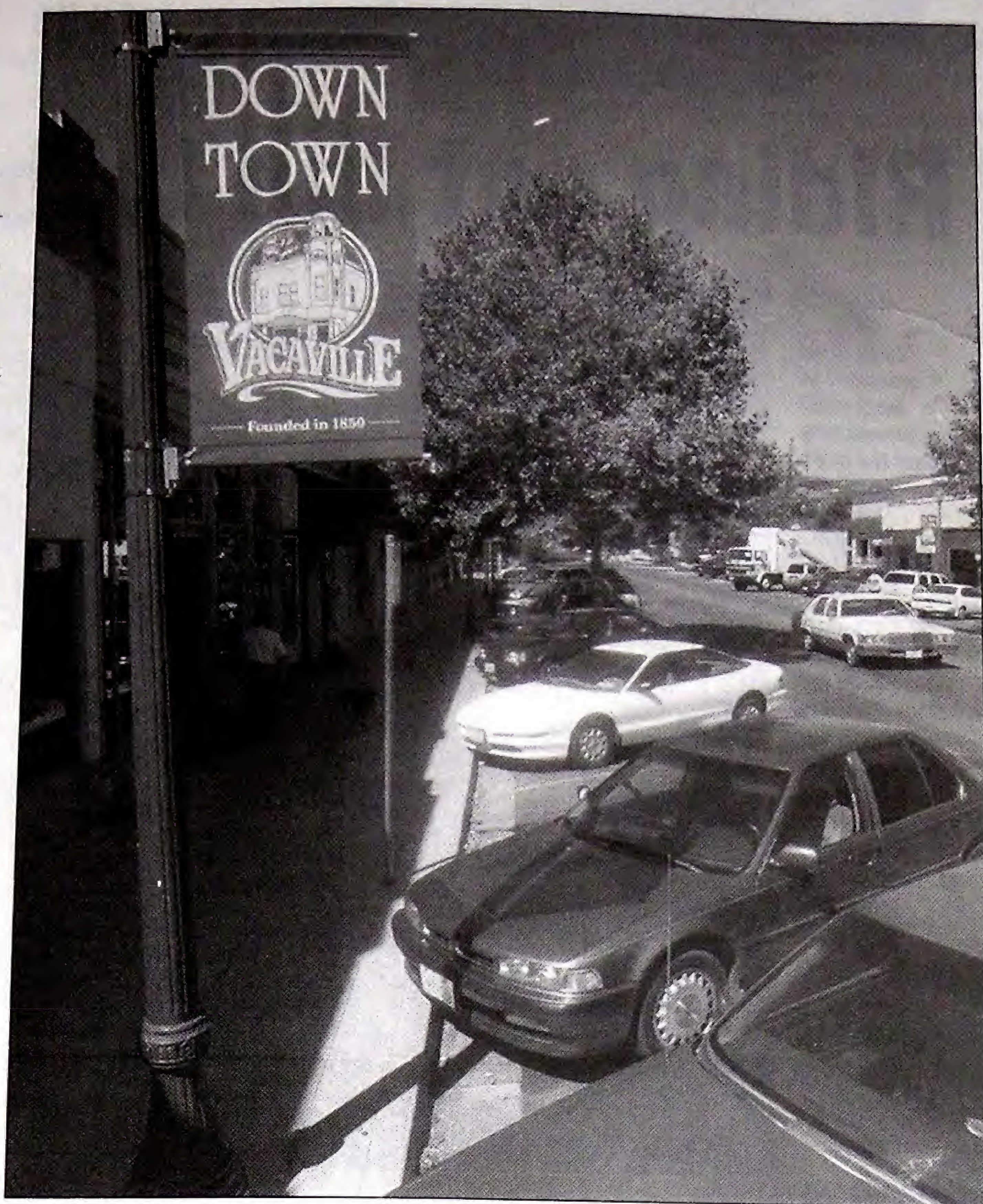
That work is just part of more than \$18 million the Redevelopment Agency has poured into downtown since 1982. In 1991, the city retooled sidewalks and streets, making the downtown a showcase for the city, but also causing the displacement of a city tradition.

The Fiesta Days Parade was forced off Main Street and onto Merchant Street, but the move has not lowered attendance. The decade also saw a few flaps over where to hold the annual celebration of the city's Western and Latino heritage. Fiesta Days was moved to the Nut Tree site for two years before returning to Andrews Park.

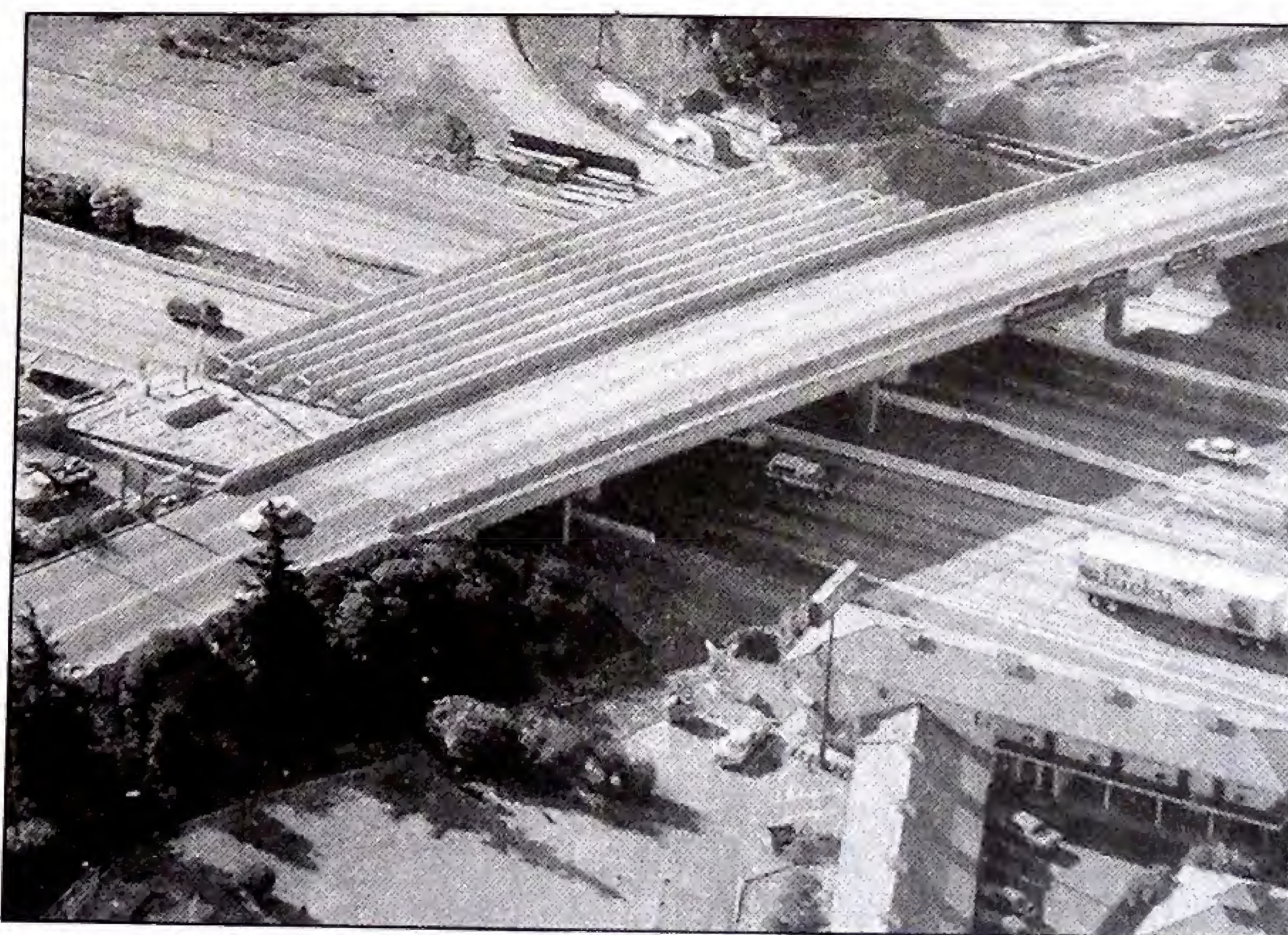
During the 1990s, the city acquired big-name businesses that produced hundreds of jobs and gave Vacaville a new reputation as a bio-tech city.

Genentech had been searching the world for a site to build a \$150 million manufacturing plant when Vacaville officials

(See Growth, Page 8)



A strong, diverse economy helped revitalize downtown Vacaville during the 1990s. That success brought residential growth, an acceptable byproduct to some and a threat to others.



Workers in June 1991 install girders along side the existing Alamo Drive overpass as part of the \$2.8 million expansion to six lanes.

Focusing on youth programs

By Diane Barney
Managing Editor

At the start of this decade, Vacaville faced a conundrum.

How could a community grow from 70,000 to 90,000 people while maintaining small-town charm and the feeling of safety?

City Manager John Thompson remembers the quandary that followed the housing boom of the '80s.

"We were struggling in the city and in the school district to keep pace with the growth. Then a new council came in in 1990 and adopted a planned growth ordinance and the economy slowed down. Suddenly, we had time to work on the things that would be more important to the city's future. The key to a community's success isn't to build, build, build. The key is to work on the quality of life issues."

But where to begin?

A dynamic speech at a city leaders' convention convinced Thompson that developing youth was key to Vacaville's future.

Dr. Lester Thurow, a Rhodes scholar, "made the most impressive and clearly understandable link between the global economy and the importance of education and youth development," Thompson said.

After that, things started changing in Vacaville.

Thompson gathered people who had a stake in youth development: city leaders, school district officials, business people, social leaders, county officials and more. The Vacaville Youth Roundtable was born.

The little-known but influential entity with more than 45 unofficial members has created some of the most innovative, forward-thinking youth programs in California today, among them Counter Force, PASSS, Gotcha!, TOUCH and the Brickhouse.

"We were a pioneer in this whole collaborative youth planning business, long before collaborative organization became a buzz term," said Thompson. "It really gave us a jump start on other cities."

(See Youth, Page 8)

VACANS KEEP UP WITH TRENDS, LOCAL AND BEYOND

From public art to the World Wide Web

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

The 1990s introduced us to microbrews and tattoos, Tickle Me Elmo and cappuccino lattes, the Gulf War that lasted only days, the O.J. Simpson murder trial that lasted for months, a presidential impeachment effort that went on for years — and a Dow Jones that topped 11,000 points.

Whatever was shaking the nation in the '90s was shaking Vacaville as well.

In contrast to the "me generation" of the 1980s, greed would be "off trend" for the '90s, predicted a Jan. 7, 1990, Reporter story that quoted futurist Faith Popcorn. She predicted Americans would "cash out" during the '90s — willing to work for less money so they could spend more time with family or other avocations. We also would concentrate more, she said, on saving our society, promoting our family life and improving our health.

Was she right?

It was during the '90s that legislators passed the Family Leave Act, which allows many workers stay home with a newborn or newly adopted child or an ailing parent. The "stay-at-home Dad" became an increasingly familiar sight. Health issues took center stage as researchers made great gains in AIDS research and began to unravel the mysteries of DNA.

Vacaville residents kept abreast of the national trends and took notice of the local ones, most notably the city's continued rapid growth. There

were 71,472 people living in Vacaville when the decade unfolded — up from 43,367 in 1980. More than 17,000 more people would claim Vacaville as their home by decade's end.

Did all those newcomers come from the Bay Area, where skyrocketing housing prices made local housing costs seem attractive enough to endure a longer commute? Or did they come from all over, to fill the jobs brought by the arrival of such companies as Genentech and Kaiser Permanente, not to mention all the service positions that came with the opening of the Factory Stores, Vacaville Commons and the Auto Mall?

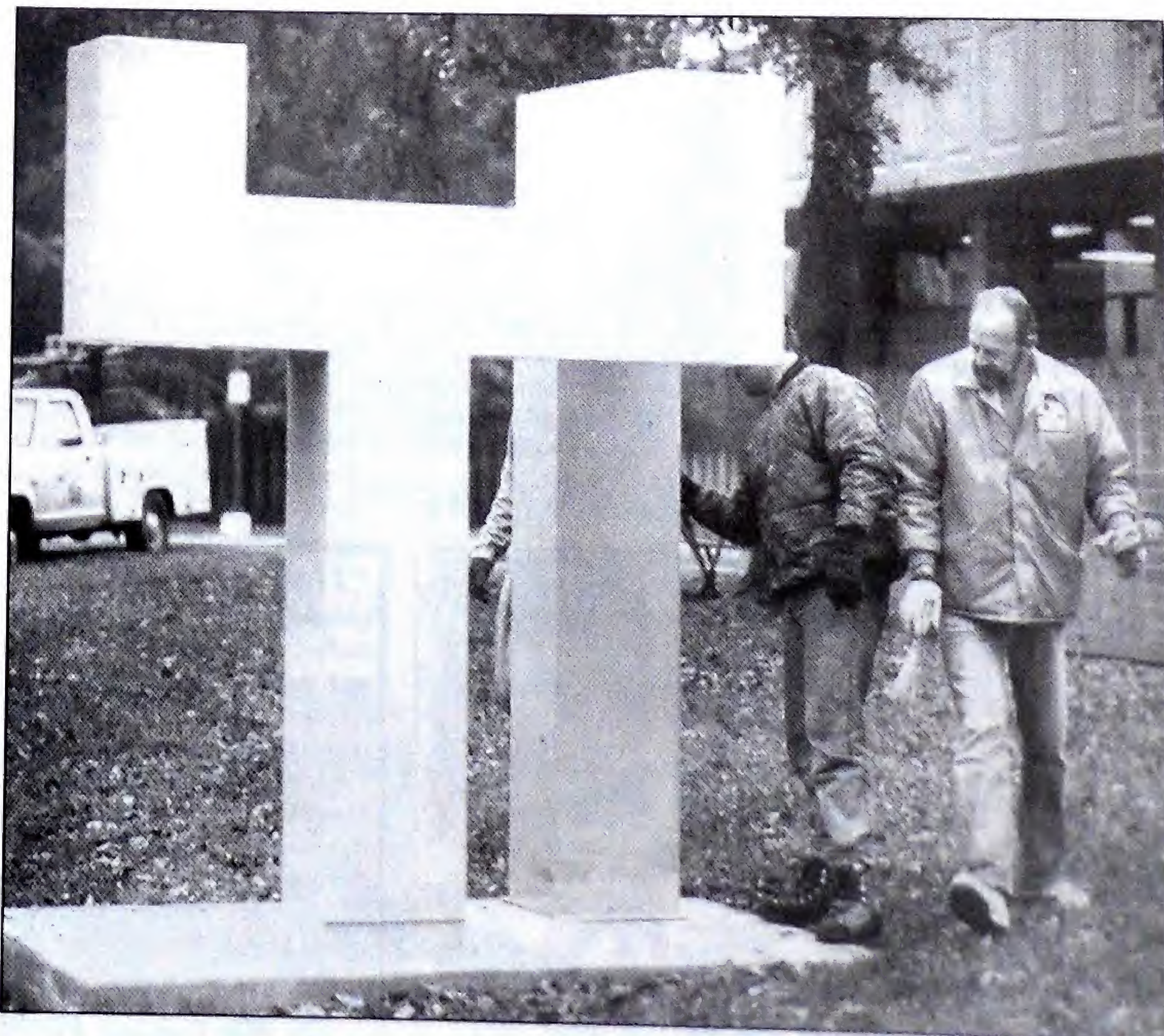
The influx brought with it a quest for all things trendy: coffee houses, Saturday markets and multi-screen theater complexes. Soon we had those things — and more.

The Farmer's Market began its Saturday morning run in downtown Vacaville in 1994. Coffee giant Starbucks came to town and now competes with such aptly named shops as Java City, Hava Java, Java International, Cable Car Coffee, Strange Brew and The Grind. The 16-screen Brenden Theatre complex opened in 1998.

Area youngsters were captivated in the early 1990s by a devotion to television's Bart Simpson, Game Boys and Rollerblades, according to one Reporter account.

Fashions from the early '90s included a throwback to the past, an August 1993 Reporter article

(See Trends, Page 9)



City workers in December 1992 put the finishing touches on the installation of Saul Nesbitt's "Sentennial," which was next to city offices on Merchant Street. It was part of a citywide arts trend.

Vacaville: A Glance BACK



1990

- Explosion levels Security Pacific Bank.
- Eva Buck, generous benefactor to Vacaville Museum, dies in June at 93.

1991

- Fiesta Parade moves from Main to Merchant Street.
- Robert Power, Nut Tree chairman, dies in May at 65.

- Jack Hume, Basic Vegetable Products co-founder, dies in October at 86.

1992

- Vacaville celebrates its centennial.
- Chiron comes to Vacaville.

1993

- Cultural center opens.

- Great Wonders Playground is built, burned and rebuilt.

- Eleanor Nelson, civic leader, teacher and philanthropist, dies in February at 95.

1994

- Genentech lays out plans to build a Vacaville plant.

Our leaders

The following is a list of every Vacaville leader, past and present, who served on the Vacaville City Council during the past 100 years.

Early city records failed to list the first name of some members of the City Council, and they were not available through other sources. Therefore, only a last name is listed for some members.

Also, the city fathers for a time early in the past 100 years were known as the Board of Trustees, becoming a City Council in 1927.

1900-1909
D.K. Corn; Chandler; Banks Crosthwaite; Hewitt; Frank H. Buck; F.B. McKeivitt Sr.; S.P. Dobbins; G.W. Crystal; Koford; Ryhiner; D.B. Derby; Edwards; Parker; Wooden; Lawrence; W.S. Killingsworth; George A. Arnold; Stevenson; C.J. Uhl

1910-1919
George A. Arnold; F.B. McKeivitt; C.J. Uhl; W.S. Killingsworth; W.E. Lawrence; F.B. McKeivitt Jr.; George H. Sharpe; W.L. Strong; Rippey; George P. Akerly; Johnson; Foutz; O.E. Merchant

1920-1929
Rolla C. Gray; C.J. Uhl; George H. Sharpe; George A. Arnold; O.E. Merchant; W.G. Morrison; William Wallace Johnson; C.E. Owen; C.B. Clawson; E.L. Cripe

1930-1939
William Chamberlain; George C. Linn; George Sharpe; C.J. Uhl; Rolla C. Gray; Joseph E. Libonati; D.A. Mowers; E.F. Cox; Joseph R. Strauman; C.M. Hartley Jr.; William N. Hume; E.A. Burton

1940-1949
E.A. Burton; C.J. Uhl; C.M. Hartley; Walter Schaefer; Rudy Werner; George Gilpatrick; Frank Miller; Bernard Day; Joseph E. Libonati; Albert S. Porter; Howard I. Burton; Carroll S. Mundy

1950-1959
Albert S. Porter; Joseph E. Libonati; Richard E. Coffey; Burton; Carroll S. Mundy; Walter C. Hansel; Harry Talbot Jr.; Ethel C. Gilley; Arnold W. Clark; Dr. Roy J. Cobble; Richard Griffin; John Moriel

1960-1969
Dr. Roy J. Cobble; Leland D. Collins; Ethel C. Gilley; John Moriel; Richard Griffin; Michael A. Gonzalez; Buford C. Moore; Noland J. Bagley; Berton N. Hassing; Albert T. Chancellor; Roy E. Brown; Bertrand Christopher; John R. Lorenzo

1970-1979
Bertrand Christopher; Berton N. Hassing; William J. Carroll; Berton N. Hassing; Roy E. Brown; Albert T. Chancellor; Robert Bernard Pokorny; Ethel C. Gilley; Barbara J. Jones; Carolyn Van Loo; David A. Fleming

1980-1989
Bill Maher; John Vasquez; William J. Carroll; David A. Fleming; Robert Bernard Pokorny; W. Michael Conner; David Lowe; Joseph L. Lopez

1990-1999
Ernest Kimme; Pauline Clancy; David A. Fleming; W. Michael Conner; David Lowe; Jeffrey Kahn; Gary Tatum; Len Augustine; Ruscha Slade; Rob Wood

— This information was compiled by Kathy Andronico, Vacaville city clerk.

Riding out the turbulent times

Sales taxes generated at local retail businesses help boost the city's economy. Vacaville Commons (right), built in the early 1990s, is frequently crowded with patrons, as are most shopping centers in the city. The Safeway store (below) is one of the anchors of the shopping center.



Reporter file photos

Business thrives at end of decade

By Amy Gingerich
Staff Writer

What a tumultuous decade for the business community. After the business explosion of the '80s, Vacaville enterprises — like those across the nation — faced an economic slowdown and recession in the early 1990s. Yet everything turned around in the latter part of the decade, and the 1990s may well be remembered as a landmark decade for the business and real estate community.

Recession frenzy overtook much of the nation at the beginning of the decade, although California didn't feel its effects for several years.

Vacaville started the 1990s anticipating Bank of America's campus-style office complex, 450 houses and a golf course planned for Lagoon Valley. The 600,000-square-foot office, which was expected to employ more than 2,000 people, was touted all around town.

Bank of America continued to discuss the project for the next three years, but the company already was starting to feel the effects of the recession, as well as an abundance of office space that resulted from its purchase of Security Pacific Bank. Talk about the project dragged into the decade, though nothing ever materialized.

Few realized this would be

the city's first sign of business trouble to come. Indeed, Vacaville businesses experienced phenomenal growth for another two years before the full effects of the recession set in.

The residential real estate market, on the other hand, started its slowdown in 1991. The median price for a single-family home took a roller coaster ride, peaking at a high of \$153,775 in July and dropping to \$139,000 by November.

More homes than ever were added to the multiple listing service, but buyers were edgy about the Gulf War and the recession, even with interest rates at their lowest in 20 years.

Yet poor home sales weren't reflected in the retail market. In 1992, the city welcomed more than 633,000 square feet of new retail space. Wal-Mart, Factory Stores expansions and Vacaville Commons shopping center, with Safeway, Target and Mervyn's, all appeared with fanfare and brought critical sales tax revenue at a time when the city was facing a cash shortage. City Manager John Thompson called the businesses the city's saviors in tough financial times.

Across the freeway in 1992, Kaiser Permanente announced plans to build an office complex and hospital, then changed them, eventually setting up medical offices on 50 acres



along Vaca Valley Parkway. The complex opened in 1996, and two years later Kaiser nurses walked picket lines in front of the building. The year-long contract dispute ended when nurses ratified a four-year contract.

Lucky and its warehouse Teamsters also argued about a contract for six months in 1992, while the threat of a strike loomed. The dispute was resolved with what both sides described as a compromise.

The Vacaville Chamber of Commerce had its own share of problems in 1991 and 1992, as the chamber's board of directors fired Executive Director Jim Telfer. When some chamber members demanded Telfer's reinstatement, others voted overwhelmingly to support the board's action. Mitch Mitchell replaced Telfer in March 1992, while board president-elect Garland Porter was stripped of his position. Porter contended the demotion was a result of his support for Telfer;

other board members claimed they had lost confidence in Porter.

With an already shaky economy, the federal government cut into the heart of Solano County in 1993 when it announced the closing of Vallejo's Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The shipyard had employed up to 10,000 people in its heyday in the late 1980s, and many of the workers lived in Vacaville. Another 25,000 area jobs were believed to be base-related.

Redevelopment is still bringing new jobs to the island, which has been turned over to the city of Vallejo, and the county has recovered steadily from the financial loss.

Vacaville's burgeoning biotech industry also helped bridge that gap.

Genentech came site-hunting here in 1994. The South San Francisco-based biotechnology company was looking for a place to build a manufacturing facility. Vacaville officials who designed

the most appealing package have since called Genentech "the win of a lifetime."

Genentech dedicated its \$15 million facility in 1998 — the same year it won U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for its drug Herceptin, a breast-cancer-fighting drug that is now manufactured in Vacaville.

Even before Genentech arrived, Vacaville had been making a name for itself as a biotechnology center. Chiron, based in Emeryville, opened its Vacaville manufacturing facility in 1992, joining Alza Corp. and BioSource Technologies, which opened in the late 1980s.

Even as the city's biotechnology cluster grew, its residential real estate market continued to reel. In 1996, Realtors started to see more homes being sold, but at lower prices. The median price of a single-family home in Northern Solano County during most of 1996 was \$135,500.

Business started looking up in 1997. (See Business, Page 5)

CORRECTIONS

Despite our best efforts and intentions, errors can occur when working with historical materials and people's memories.

The following errors appeared in the pages of "Vacaville: The Past Century."

In the 1920-1919 edition, the person identified as Lee Hardesty in the photograph of the Pinkham & McKeivitt Fruit Company is, according to reader Mary Burton Jones, Charles Burton.

In the 1940-1949 edition, the cutline for the photograph on Page 26 misidentified the school. It is Alamo Elementary School.

In the 1950-1959 edition, the cutline for the photograph on Page 15 misidentified the species of the Nut Tree tree, which was a black walnut.

The Reporter regrets these errors and any others which may have not been identified.

After Rose and John retired in 1990 their daughter Janet and her husband Curtis Balcom took over Rose Florist in Vacaville and their son David and his wife Juanita Lopez took over Rose Florist in Fairfield. Rose and John now spend part of their days helping take care of their four grandchildren, the possible future owners of Rose Florist and Gift Shop in Vacaville and Fairfield.



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1995

- Vacaville Fire Department celebrates 100th anniversary.
- Nut Tree closure announced.

1996

- Kaiser Permanente-Vacaville medical offices open.

1997

- Rep. Vic Fazio retires.

- Hell House brings national publicity.

- Al Porter, former city mayor and Basic Vegetable Products co-founder, dies in March at 90.

1998

- Vacaville Skating Center and Brenden Theatre open on the old Basic Vegetable site.
- International Home Foods closes plant.

1999

- Renaissance Faire makes temporary home at the Nut Tree.
- Steelheads announce plans to move baseball team to Nut Tree site.
- Howard "Howdy" Rogers, fruit rancher and Vacaville's "walking history book," dies in January.



THE END of an ERA

Squabbles, death help end Nut Tree's presence

By Amy Gingerich
Staff Writer

Bob Power's death in 1991 signaled the end of an era at the Nut Tree.

Founded in 1921 by his parents, Bunny and Helen Power, the restaurant pioneered California cuisine and became a landmark, due in large part to Bob Power's foresight and business acumen.

But the Nut Tree's 75-year history crumbled after his death, as poor management and family squabbles took their toll.

In 1995, the Nut Tree's problems became public.

First the 40-year-old bakery was closed in a cost-saving measure. Then the family tried to open a Nut Tree card room, but that idea failed.

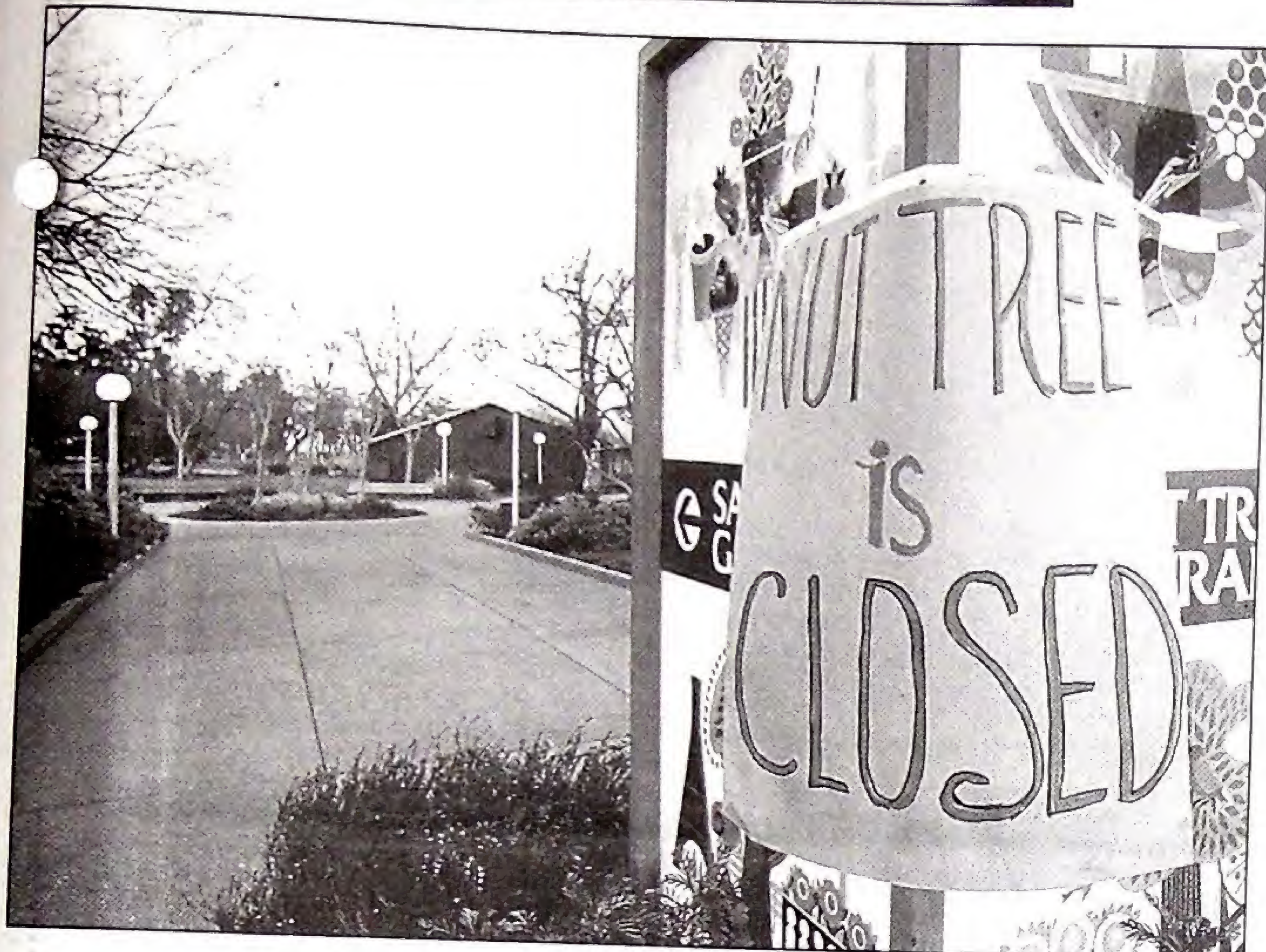
Buyer after buyer, ranging from entrepreneurs to Solano County itself, lined up to take over, but all the deals fell through.

Finally, the family closed the Nut Tree on Jan. 27, 1996, and began seeking a buyer for the property, negotiating through San Francisco-based The Kivelstadt Group.

In 1999, the Nut Tree finally started generating genuine interest. For two months in the fall, it was home to the Renaissance Pleasure Faire, which had been forced out of its Novato home before it could move into its new home in Antioch. The Renaissance Faire is expected to use the Nut Tree again in 2000.

Also in 1999, Bruce Portner came looking for a place to showcase his baseball team, the Sacramento Steelheads. He chose Vacaville's Nut Tree as the right location.

Portner has since changed the team's name to the Solano Steelheads. The stadium is under construction, and tickets are being sold for the team's inaugural 2000 season.



Traffic whizzes past the famed Nut Tree restaurant (top), an old Vacaville landmark along East Monte Vista Avenue and Interstate 80. A closed sign (above) shouts the reality of the end of an era, not only for Vacaville, but for every freeway traveler throughout the state and beyond.

Business ...

(Continued from Page 4)

Revitalization efforts began to take shape at the former Basic American Foods site on Davis Street. When the Vacaville Skating Center, the 16-screen Brenden movie theater and restaurants began opening in 1998, the city's economic outlook couldn't have been better.

There was a brief setback that year, however, when International Home Foods, formerly American Home Foods, closed. More than 300 people were thrown out of work in the closing that came two years after the 34-year-old tomato processing plant was sold.

By 1999, Vacaville's business development was being touted as outstanding, and the real estate market was again setting record highs.

Hearn Construction Inc. and BC Stocking both moved their headquarters to the two remaining buildings on the old Basic American Foods site, where Outback Steakhouse opened Nov. 30. Plans are still in the works for a new Hawthorn Inn along Mason Street.

The median price for resale homes topped off at \$179,000 in 1999 — an all-time high — and homes were being snatched off the market as they became available.

By year's end there were no signs that the economic good times were slowing. Two hotels opened in December, and at least three restaurants had announced plans to open in Vacaville.



Genentech, one of several biotechnology companies locating here, dedicated its plant in north Vacaville in 1998.

Do You Remember?

Bob and Jim Tooke, owners of Merchant & Main, Vacaville's Premier Purveyor of Fine Foods and Spirits Restaurant leased the Opera House in 1994 in historic Downtown Vacaville as the community had a need for a classic elegant location for weddings, banquets, business meetings, and parties.

In May of 1999 Bob & Jim opened a garden patio for your relaxation and delight. While dining there you enjoy can their famous steaks, seafood, pasta and salads that have made them one of the most popular restaurants in Solano County.



Jim and Bob Tooke

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Travelling back through time: 1990-1999



Joe Sr., Karen, Joe Jr., Chris, Tom, Jessica and Baby Noah

As we leave this final decade of this millennium, and enter the next century, Barber Joe's looks at our past to remember what we did right to last as long as we have. Every decade in this century has had a Lopez cutting hair in Vacaville. John Lopez came here in the 1905, and then brought his younger brother Joe into the business in 1920. Joe II started in 1942, and was joined by his children Karen, Joe Jr., and Janice starting in the 70's and 80's. We feel proud to be a part of Vacaville's history and a downtown institution. Now owned and operated by Joe Jr. (actually the third), Barber Joe's is still the best family hairstyling value in Vacaville. Come visit with Joe Sr. and let him know that when you were a kid, he or his father gave you your first haircut. He'll probably remember you.



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Wooz center put up for sale

The Wooz, a Vacaville amusement center that was at the vanguard of a brief maze craze in the United States a decade ago, is on the sales block for \$3.7 million.

No for-sale signs are visible at the center's 11.3-acre site on Orange Drive near the Home-Base Home Improvement Warehouse, but The Wooz was listed for sale in Wednesday's real estate section of The Wall Street Journal.

The Wooz is closed for the winter at the moment, but the advertisement indicates it hasn't closed permanently.

The ad also emphasizes the site is a prime candidate for commercial development because of its proximity to Interstate 80.

The Wooz is owned by a privately held company, Sabrina Investments.

General Manager Larry Friday was unavailable for comment Thursday. Rick Cordes of Cordes Commercial Real Estate Services, the broker hired to market The Wooz, declined to comment publicly.

Local real estate experts agreed The Wooz is an attractive site for commercial development.

Hal Alpert, a commercial broker with Coldwell Banker North Bay Realty, noted that the Orange Drive corridor is emerging as a center for big-box and other retailers.

"I think that's what you will see out there," he said of The Wooz site.

Friday promotes The Wooz throughout Northern California, often in cooperation with the Vallejo Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Jim Reikowsky, the visitors bureau's communications director, noted that The Wooz can't offer the thrills of amusement parks such as Six Flags Marine World.

"But it has some very unique qualities, with the maze and all," Reikowsky said.

One of The Wooz's problems is a giant maze isn't the type of attraction that area residents will return to time and time again. They might come back every year or two.

When it opened in 1988, The Wooz created a nationwide hoopla because it featured the first giant maze of its kind in the United States.

The maze's confusing network of passageways is meant to test the wits of young and old alike.

Over the years, The Wooz sought to broaden its appeal by adding attractions, including go-carts, bumper cars, miniature golf and a carnival-style fun-house.

By Mike Fitch, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Jan. 15, 1999

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Forging ahead ...

(Continued from Cover)

decade at little more than a crawl. During recent lifetimes we rocketed to the moon; we take the prospect of an up close and personal relationship with Mars with a grain of salt. It was easy for a single generation to have experienced several worlds, from a time when technology was little more than a smooth wheel, to a digital age that advances at dizzying speed.

Vacaville in the '90s? Visualize a roller coaster. We have just crested The Big Dipper. Log on, sit down and hold on.

But a funny thing happened on our way to 2000: We rediscovered our center. From Lagoon Valley to upper Pleasants; from retail sprawl on both sides of the freeway to a 1,000-acre Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt, growth has been honed to a fine art. An eight-screen theater was replaced by twice that many on Davis Street; a credit union placed a crystalline landmark atop a gateway hill, its mirror glass reflecting our familiar Blue Mountains; Genentech became a jewel in a biotech crown that felt a little awkward on our collective head. At one minute we couldn't even spell "biotechnology," now we're a "cluster."

Transportation continued to be a challenge and gridlock was a growing pain in the neck. We talk mass transit, but we still can't get out of our cars. That ongoing love affair gave birth to one of Vacaville's most vibrant industries. Almost overnight Orange Drive became "auto row." Glistening models covered sprawling lots, all of it proof that when things are good — or even not so good — people buy cars.

More Factory Stores came

on line. Vacaville Commons and Power Plaza were completed in the early years of the decade. Wal-Mart, HomeBase, Office Depot and CompUSA were only a few of the national brands that put their brands on the valley. When an economy opens a door, sometimes it also closes one: International Home Foods, Kmart and Orchard Supply were shuttered in 1995. And on a far more global scale, Solano County finally realized one of its worst fears: Mare Island Naval Shipyard turned over its keys to the city of Vallejo.

Probably no closing touched a nerve as emotional as the Nut Tree. After more than 70 years, family differences led to the shutdown of an institution that was a model for food and family destinations. It hosted presidents and kings, and was a rock-horse favorite of children the world over. It was presumed by most Vacans to be part of the family. They took its closing as nothing less than a personal loss. The acreage lay bare for several years, waiting for a new suitor. Some came but none had what it takes to make a marriage work. At decade end, the old Nut Tree was being reinvented as a different kind of family destination, with minor league baseball as its cornerstone.

Yet even while this was happening on its rim, new focus was directed toward the old downtown center. Fears that all that was new would bury all that was old prompted the city to step in and administer CPR on the commercial heart. Main Street was refurbished and revitalized. Redevelopment — the bane of the '60s — ironically came back as a downtown godsend. Histori-

cally priceless buildings were thus saved. The mindset turned inward. Generated by new development on the old Basic Vegetable Products site on Davis Street, downtown was again the place to be. In warehouses that once stored garlic, hockey pucks now fly. At decade's end, workers were putting final touches on the Ulatis Creek Walk. Public art was not only accepted, it was desired, and public input was starting to shape what would become new gateways to the city. The people built a new library and a performing arts theater, brick and mortar proof that the arts are alive and well in Vacaville.

So this is what Quality of Life is all about.

Our plate runneth over. The pace was frenetic, but it was fun to be part of it. Despite issues and distractions, we stayed the course. Our attention was inextricably drawn to the bizarre:

An unpersuasive O.J. Simpson; a non-denying President Bill Clinton; cult suicides in Southern California. In a time of relative peace and prosperity, human rights atrocities were committed around the world. Just as TV became a window on human drama it brought us so close to Desert Storm, Desert Shield and The Gulf War that the sands of tragedy seemed to blow into our living rooms.

We championed causes, fought the AIDS fight, pitched in or protested against all that was representative of the human condition in the '90s. And when it came to politics, we learned in time that there was no such thing as too much suspicion. Representatives seemed badder. Americans were madder. We shouted at D.C., "We're not taking it any more!" But was anyone there?

There was a Luminous Earth Grid in the Cordelia hills, remember? An Andrews Park

playground was built by volunteers, then burned to the ground. And then was built again. Sometimes our patience was stretched.

We went through several police chiefs: Gary Tatum begat Lee Dean who begat Mike Cook who begat Bob Harrison. Fire Chief Bob Powell gave way to Pete Marino who gave way to Frank Moore. All in one decade.

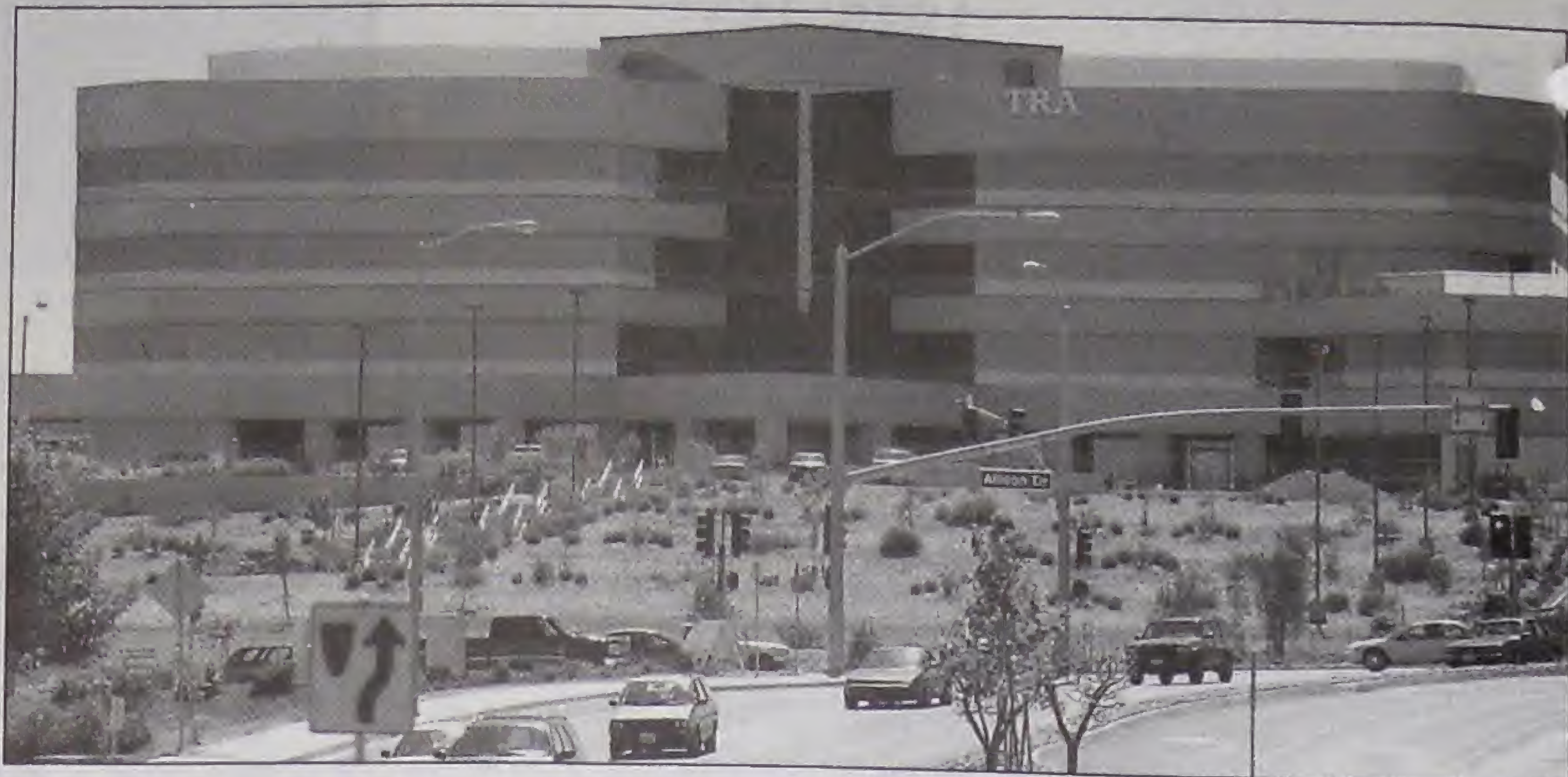
In June 1990, longtime Mayor Bill Carroll defeated Don Pippo for his seat on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. In November of the same year, David Fleming became the city's chief official and was joined by Ernest Kimme and Pauline Clancy. Rischea Slade and Len Augustine were elected in 1996. In 1998 Kimme was replaced by Rob Wood — the business community's candidate — to comprise the Vacaville City Council at the end of the century.

No decade can celebrate its growth without paying respect to

the resources that it will miss the most: its people. Decade passings include philanthropist Eva Buck, 1990; Nut Tree partner Robert Power, 1991; Basic Vegetable founder Jacquelin Hume, 1991; teacher and civic leader Eleanor Nelson, 1993; and senior citizen advocate John McBride, 1994, to name but a few.

The 20th century is at the end of its days. The countdown has begun. We are as prepared as we'll ever be, but will it be enough? We have a proud heritage to lean on and a cantankerous nature to fall back on. We Vacans are awed at where we've come from, and bewildered by how fast it will change. There will likely be challenges that we can't even imagine now. All that we have to sustain us is the pioneer grit of our heritage and the strength of our community. That's more than enough.

Vacaville 2000.
Bring it on.



Construction proceeds on the Travis Federal Credit Union atop a hill overlooking Nut Tree Parkway, Allison Drive and Interstate 80.

Reporter file photo

Regent at Summerfield House

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FROM THE DESK OF
Stacey Powers

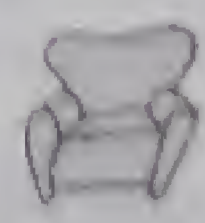
Dear Wonderful Ones,

With the New Millennium coming, this is an ideal time to reflect on what I have to be thankful for, and how fortunate I am. I don't want this to appear hokey, but I am truly grateful for all of you. How lucky I am to have such wonderful customers who make owning a business a true delight. Now please allow me to dwell on my terrific staff at Shock's. Because I sincerely like all of you, I enjoy coming to work. Because all of you are so capable at your jobs, I can leave knowing that things will work without me there. Because I can trust you, I know that the business is safe. Because of your goodness, I can leave with a happy heart and know that all is well. For this I am truly thankful and count this as one of my most wonderful blessings. Please know that you are appreciated.

I read this recently, and thought it would be a good reminder for all of us as we head into the New Millennium:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact that attitude has on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church, a home. The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for the day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is to play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it."

My sincerest hope is that you will all have much happiness as we enter the New Millennium.

 **Shock's**

Very Truly,
Stacey Powers

Owner, Shock's, The Home Comfort Store
and La-Z-Boy Gallery in Vacaville
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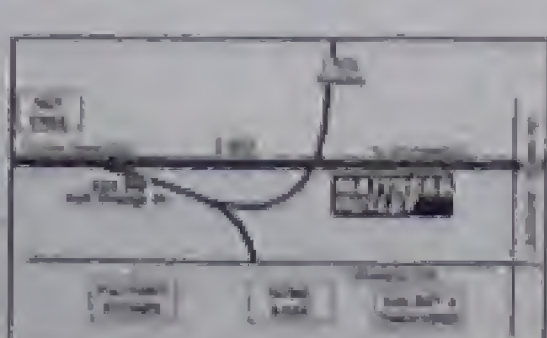
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Growth ...

(Continued from Page 3)
created the ultra-secret "Zebra team" to lure the biotechnology giant to town.
The strike crew — which earned its "Z-Team" moniker because of its vow not to reveal the identity of the giant it was chasing — designed an economic package Genentech could not resist. The company announced in 1994 that its plant would be built in Vacaville.

The city also landed Kaiser Permanente, which constructed a \$72 million medical office complex off Vaca Valley Parkway in 1996.

About 71,000 people lived in Vacaville, including two state prisons, at the dawn of the 1990s. More than 89,400 people called Vacaville home at the end of the decade.

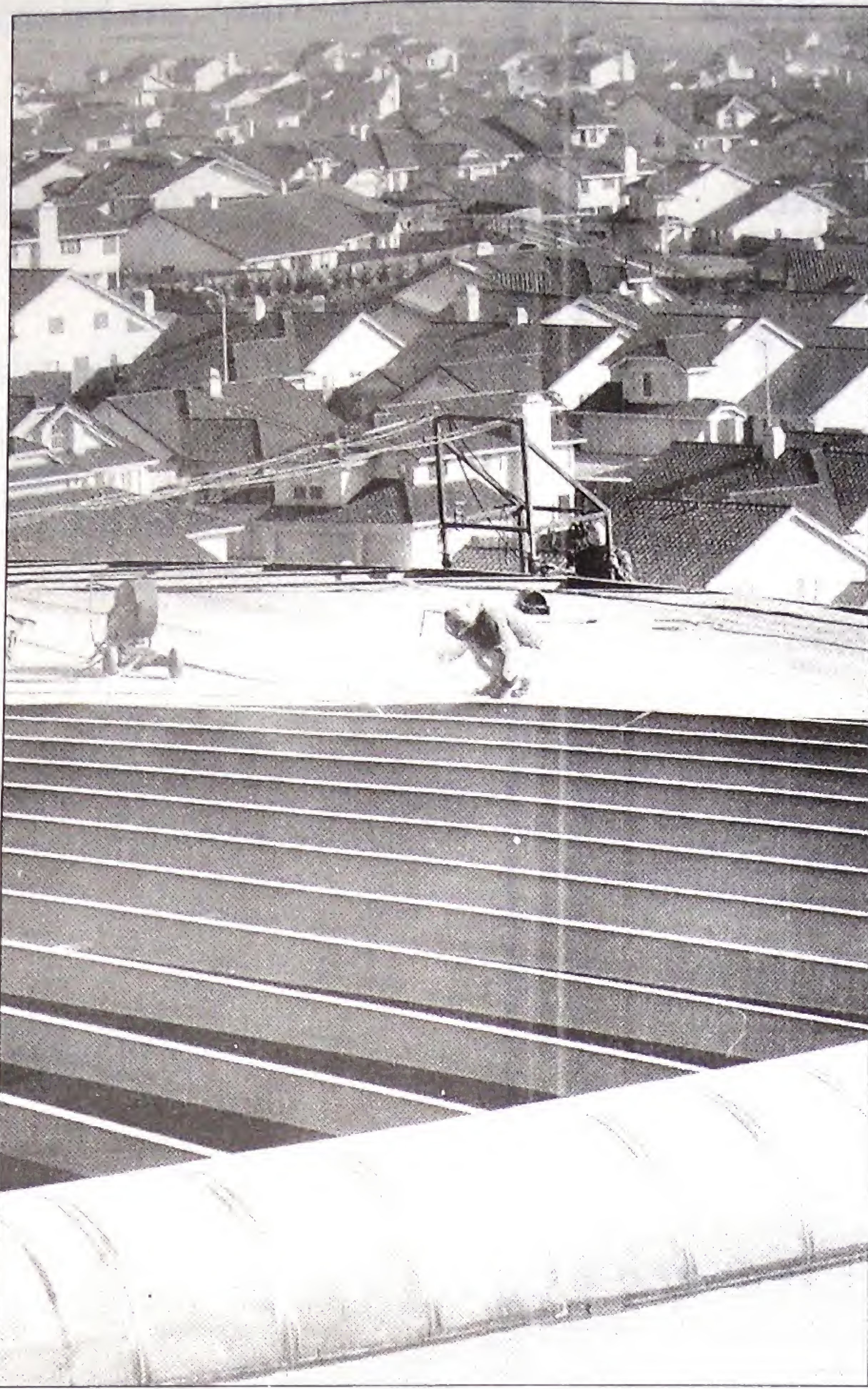
They needed places to shop. They already had the Factory Stores at Vacaville, but soon even more was available to them. Big-name hotels, an auto mall, grocery and bulk food stores and dozens of retailers open their doors in the southeast quadrant of the city, along Orange Drive and the brand-new streets of Allison and Nut Tree parkways and Harbison, Helen Power and Burton drives.

As northside residents flocked to new shops across the freeway, the city was forced to widen the Allison Drive overcrossing in 1992 — several years sooner than planned. Interstate 80 overcrossings and ramps at Alamo Drive and Leisure Town Road also were widened during the '90s. As the decade came to a close, the city was making plans to widen the Nut Tree Road overcrossing, part of a \$10 million package of incentives the city is using to propel redevelopment of the Nut Tree site.

Home construction started to pick up at the end of the decade, though only slightly. By late 1999, there were calls for both affordable housing, especially that which would appeal to military personnel, and for executive housing.

A new City Council, created in 1998 with the addition of Vice Mayor Rob Wood, supported plans to create an executive housing enclave complete with golf course. It is proposed in two areas: lower Lagoon Valley and the Rogers Lane area in northwest Vacaville.

In response, the Orderly Growth Committee is debating the idea of collecting signatures for another referendum to stop such development, just as it did at the dawn of the decade.



With a growing economy, more homes such as these in Browns Valley (background) were needed to house people moving to Vacaville. And with those homes, came the need for more water. Workers (above) install the Browns Valley water tank in March 1990.

Youth programs ...

(Continued from Page 3)
While grants gave birth to many of the programs — including PASSS (Parents and Students Seeking Success) and Markham Elementary School's Healthy Start program — the city and the school district have dedicated resources to keep them alive.

One of the more dynamic programs is Challenge Days. The series of self-esteem building sessions was first offered to Vacaville's middle and high school students in 1997. The program built up momentum and led to a Youth Summit in 1998.

From that event came the TOUCH Committee (Teens Organizing and Unifying for Community Health) and the Critical Choices campaign. Teens joined subcommittees covering a variety of issues, including tobacco, diversity and the creation of a teen center. The Brickhouse, which now inhabits more than a quarter of the city's Three Oaks Community Center, was turned over to the city's youth in 1998. A youth committee continues to direct its activities.

The city's Police Department long has played a prominent role in developing youth programs. In the 1970s, Police Chief James Lehman established a youth services division. In the 1980s, the division bloomed under Chief Gary Tatum, who sounded the warning bell on gang activity in the area.

In the mid-'90s, Chief Lee Dean worked to establish Counter Force, a Roundtable creation that gave at-risk youth a chance to get jobs, learn career skills, leave gangs, participate in recreational opportunities and, in general, and get their lives back on track.

Counter Force continued to flourish under Police Chief Mike Cook, who later helped develop PASSS. Police teamed up with the school district and hired social workers to monitor the

PASSS program, which identifies at-risk students and counsels parents on how to help them.

The city's Domestic Violence Response Team also was created under Cook, a reaction to statistics that showed more than half of the city's assaults and more than 90 percent of its murders came out of domestic struggles. The task force works closely with the District Attorney's Office and focuses on intervention.

"If we can attack the roots of crime, we can prevent it," Cook said.

Statistics back him up. Since the institution of Counter Force and PASSS, the incidences of juvenile crime and gang violence have gone down. Domestic violence assault arrests have increased, but only because the task force is being more vigilant about prosecution, said Cook.

Current Police Chief Bob Harrison continues to support the programs and the concepts behind them.

"Success breeds success," said Thompson. "We knew we were having a positive effect. The more we did, the more we wanted to do."

Of all the programs established in the 1990s, Thompson is most proud of PASSS.

"It makes such absolute sense. You wonder why we haven't done it forever," he said.

"Our social workers are like Peace Corps volunteers. They go into the families, they help parents understand how to create boundaries or how to discipline. Sometimes they work to get a family member off drugs or alcohol. They've even taught a mom how to work a vacuum cleaner."

Ideally, these kinds of lessons would be taught by churches or families, but Thompson said that just isn't happening.

"We, by default, go in and try to shore up the family structure. Because if not now, we'll have to do it later."

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Crowning Glory heralds wet times

Rainfall drowns drought

Dena and Dennis Sullivan kept their two young sons out of school Friday and took them to the top of Monticello Dam to see something that hasn't happened since one boy was a newborn and the other wasn't planned yet.

Lake Berryessa, completely full. Nolan, 10, and Kalen, 8, and dozens of other curiosity seekers and water officials watched a thin sheen of water flowing over the lip of the lake's so-called Glory Hole spillway and cascade down the dark hole for the first time in 10 years.

"When I was growing up, this happened all the time. It was no big deal," said Dena Dennis who, with others, braved chilling winds to watch the water flowing and see the lake at its high point.

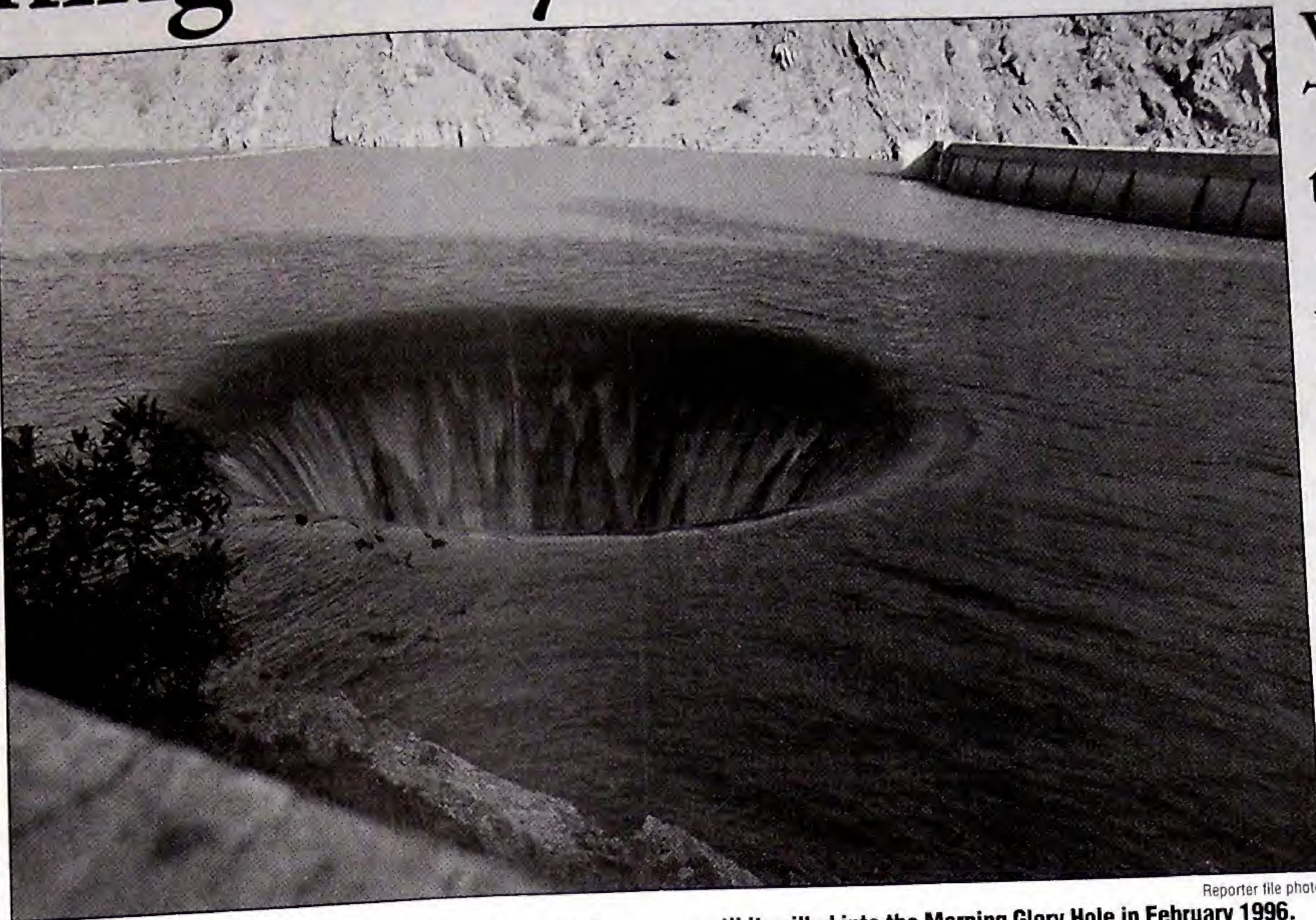
"It's like history, it's been so long," she said. "Now it's just so full."

It began at about 1 a.m. Friday, according to water officials.

While the spillway itself is little more than a big cement tube sticking out of a corner of the lake, water officials and others who drove to the top of the dam said they see the hole's breach as a sign of hope, an historical event and a marker that the long-endured drought is officially over.

James Llewellyn, a storekeeper at Sierra Pacific Resort near the base of the dam, said the lake reaching its 1.6 million-acre-foot capacity has historically been good for business. "When you have water, you have summer business."

"It is quite exciting for all of us," Llewellyn. "They're coming up like crazy. I've never seen so much traffic." Said Vacaville Mayor David Fleming: "We now have at



Years of drought ended with rain raising the level of Lake Berryessa until it spilled into the Morning Glory Hole in February 1996. Reporter file photo

least seven years of water, maybe more. This is the high point. It's the visible end to the drought."

Officials with the Solano County Water Agency made a brief presentation for the media and others from the top of the dam to mark the occasion.

"It wasn't so long ago that reporters and photographers were walking around this reservoir taking photographs of the old stone bridge at Monticello," said Dixon Mayor Don Erickson, chairman of the Solano County Water Agency. "We all wondered if it would ever rain again."

"The refilling of Berryessa is about much more than the Glory Hole spilling," Erickson told the group. "It is about Solano County surviving the drought."

By one set of statistics, the water level topping the spillway is hardly a big deal. It has happened 15 times in the 33

rainy seasons since the dam was first full in 1963.

But water officials point to the fact that the latest drought put the lake at its lowest point ever — just 26 percent of capacity in 1992 — and included eight years of sub-par rainfall. Again, the lake was nearly empty in December 1994, and it took just two rainy seasons to fill it to overflowing.

"We knew statistically that the (water) would come back," said Fleming. "But we thought it would come back slowly."

Fleming pointed to 1992, when Vacaville and several other Solano cities bought banked water reserves from farmers as insurance against running out of allotted water. Vacaville paid for 2,200 acre-feet, which was never used and is, technically, still there.

An acre-foot of water equals about 326,000 gallons, and in a normal year serves a family of five.

According to Brice Bledsoe,

secretary-manager for the Solano Irrigation District, the rapid recovery was nothing short of miraculous. "There was a time in the early '90s I suspected it was going to go dry," he said.

It took six years to refill the lake after drought conditions in 1976 and 1977, said Bledsoe. Some of the credit during the latest recovery goes to the public for conserving water.

"The conservation efforts during this last drought put 180,000 acre-feet in there that wouldn't have been there otherwise," he said. "The conservation was vital. Reasonable conservation is always necessary."

Designers dubbed the hole the Morning Glory Spillway, named for its resemblance to the flower of the same name. The water that spills into it travels through the underground tunnel and is released about 100 yards downstream from the dam.

"The refilling of Berryessa is about much more than the Glory Hole spilling. It is about Solano County surviving the drought."

Dixon Mayor Don Erickson, and Solano County Water Agency chairman

The lake was fullest on March 2, 1983, when the water level reached more than 6 feet above the level of the Glory Hole, more than 1.7 million acre-feet of water. Even then, however, the water level was still nearly 10 feet below the top of the dam.

Water: Too little, too much

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Water was a scarce commodity when the decade dawned, but by its close the rains had returned — with a vengeance — and reservoirs again filled.

Even Lake Berryessa's "Glory Hole" had spilled over on Feb. 23, 1996 — the first time in 10 years.

Yet in spite of the drought's end and another decade of debate, residents in the English Hills and Steiger Hills still were haggling over a water system as the decade closed.

In 1990, Vacaville was marking its fifth year of drought. Residents had become more than familiar with rationing and landscaping with native, drought-tolerant plants.

In 1993, legal battles raged over water supplies in Napa, Solano and Yolo counties. The counties went to court in 1993 to vie for greater shares of local water supplies. The wrangling caused the Solano Water Authority to halt its 5-year-old effort to buy Monticello Dam. Meanwhile, the rains did begin to fall again. Lake Berryessa found itself half-full for the first time in years.

Heavy rains, thanks to a weather phenomenon dubbed "El Nino," started to fall in January 1997, and they ravaged Northern California. The rains caused widespread flooding when levees in the Delta broke. Solano County suffered an estimated \$2.83 million in damages to crops and farmland because of the wet winter.

El Nino returned in 1998, and that February record rainfalls caused floods, blackouts and damage to homes and businesses, county supervisors declared an emergency.

El Nino turned into La Nina, and the winter of 1998-99 found Vacans shivering through days of dry but freezing cold weather.

Trends of the times ***

(Continued from Page 3)

said. Fashionable young ladies were wearing prairie-style dresses and plenty of ruffles and lace. Blue jeans continued to be the pants of choice for teens and adults alike, but their appearance changed radically throughout the decade, going from skin tight to exceptionally baggy, from capri style to a bell-bottom reminiscent of the '60s.

Vacans were making fashion statements with tattoos and body piercings, too. A September 1993 Reporter article noted that people "from all walks of life, from teens to seniors," were opting for tattoos, while another article four years later took note of the increasing number of people who were undergoing body piercing.

Cosmopolitan tastes extended to entertainment that drew residents to the 500-seat Vacaville Performing Arts Theater, which opened in 1993.

Solano Community Symphony, the Air Force Band, Vacaville Ballet and the local barbershop chorus always draw huge crowds, former theater manager Greg Crow told The Reporter when the theater celebrated its fifth anniversary. Bodybuilding, karate and boxing exhibitions there also proved successful.

The Kirov Ballet from Russia drew a large crowd when it performed in the theater's first year, as did musician Pablo Cruise and political satirist Mark Russell when they came in 1999.

Outside the theater, residents began taking notice of the more permanent kinds of art that were springing up all around town.

Vacans celebrating the city's 100th anniversary in 1992 spent the next two years raising more than \$100,000 for the Centennial Arts Project: A series of ceramic tile murals depicting the area's history, installed at City Hall, and the bronze statue of a rancher and his daughter picking fruit. The latter stands at the corner of Merchant and Main streets, across the street from a monument to the city's Pony Express connection,

unveiled in 1997.

In 1993, Vacaville inherited several welded-steel sculptures created by Saul Nesbitt, the artist who designed the Campbell's soup can label. Some were placed outside City Hall; others were located around the Ulatis Cultural Center.

A business improvement district in 1996 bought four copper and steel pipe trees from Suisun artist Phil Glashoff and placed them in the Alamo Drive median strips east of Interstate 80. Most recently, in September 1999, a life-size bronze statue called "Story Time" was installed in front of the library.

Interest in religion also grew in the '90s, as did local churches. Older congregations expanded as new congregations sprang up. St. Joseph's Catholic Church put up a parish center, while the Seventh-day Adventists moved to Allendale, shared space with an endangered hawk and built a new home. Bethany Lutheran Church built a multi-purpose room on Orchard Avenue, even as it bought property off Leisure Town Road and announced plans for a new church and school. Just down the road, Valley Evangelical Free Church kept growing, while the nearby Vaca Valley Christian Life Center started building a 38,000-square-foot auditorium that will seat 2,300 people.

The '90s may be remembered as the decade of solidarity among local Christians. In 1990, a half-dozen or so congregations came together to sponsor the Festival of Trees, a now-annual fund-raiser for Opportunity House, the city's homeless shelter which also opened in the early 1990s. In mid-decade, Promise Keepers provided an avenue for Christian men to join forces.

Like the rest of the nation, Vacans grew more comfortable with computer technology during the 1990s. By decade's end, we had our own computer stores, electronic mail accounts, World Wide Web sites and ongoing debate about whether the public library should allow unrestricted access to the Internet.

Pig possessors produce plea for porker precept proposal

They lack fur, feathers or fins, but potbellied pigs are a growing rage in the household pet arena historically occupied by dogs, cats, birds and goldfish.

The problem is they're illegal in many cities, including Vacaville. Patti Coppes is trying to change that.

"How could anyone not want one for a pet?" said the owner of 8-week-old, 8-pound Amy. "They don't bark, they don't dig up your yard, they don't attack other animals, they don't attack other humans."

Coppes alleges she is one of many closet potbellied pig owners within the city limits, where cloven-hoofed pets are prohibited, even though owners laud them as the pre-eminent pet.

For starters, they have hair, not fur, and are great for people with dog and cat allergies. That's how Coppes got interested.

She had to find homes for the original family pets after 2-year-old Torrie developed an allergy to dog mites.

She learned about potbellied pigs on a walk through Solano Mall, where breeder Dee Douglas' daughter was handing out information. Coppes was hooked.

But such acceptance has not been universal. Some cities

"How could anyone not want one for a pet? They don't bark, they don't dig up your yard, they don't attack other animals, they don't attack other humans."

Patti Coppes, potbellied pig owner

refused to rewrite their pet ordinances. Most recently, Golden State Warriors coach Don Nelson was ordered by the city of Alameda to get rid of Miss Piggy, and back to the breeder she went.

According to Douglas, more fights have been won. Major cities such as San Francisco and Sacramento and smaller municipalities like Davis have approved pigs-in-residence. ...

They dislike mud, lack a curly tail, seldom top 100 pounds (unless improperly fed)

and stand 12 to 18 inches tall. They don't oink but will squeal if injured, walk on a leash if trained, use a litter box and do tricks.

"They can learn anything you can kind of conjure up a way to teach them," said Douglas, demonstrating tricks with Mr. White Shoes, a slightly round 3-year-old who sits, stands and — watch out Kristi Yamaguchi — does a mean pirouettes and figure eights, swine-style.

"He's our lineman," she said. "We had him in for the Super Bowl. He was rooting for the 'Skins.' ...

"I can't see where they cause any trouble," said Dixon vet Peter Timm, who reports an increase in the number of his potbellied patients during the past year. "Everybody who has them, swears to God they're smart."

Ellie Bush, a veterinarian in Vacaville, added they may fill a desire to own an unusual pet.

Councilmembers will reconsider Vacaville's pet ordinance. They will be asked to allow potbellied pigs as long as they do not exceed 100 pounds, 22 inches in height, are spayed or neutered and are limited to one per household.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Feb. 23, 1992

Meeting the Challenges of Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow



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1990 – 1999



– Chrysler Town & Country



– Chrysler Sebring Convertible



– Chrysler Concorde JXi

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Chrysler brand's crowning achievement for 1993 would continue to shine throughout the decade, the cab-forward design. By maximizing living space and minimizing engine space, Chrysler's acclaimed cab forward design (first seen in the 1993 Concorde) would forever change the architecture of the automobile.

In the mid-1990's, many "industry experts" proclaimed the demise of the convertible. Chrysler believed otherwise and delighted the American public by including the 1996 Sebring Convertible within the Chrysler family of vehicles. It would become America's favorite convertible -- an exciting vehicle that delivered open-air pleasures with all the comforts, conveniences and practicalities of a primary car.

1998 marked the introduction of paperless design with the redesign of Concorde. This process developed, tested and validated every aspect of Concorde's existence prior to actual creation. Going beyond dynamic new styling, superb handling and elegant features, this vehicle was the highest ranked premium midsize car in the J. D. Power and Associates 1998 Initial Quality Study 2SM.

After a hiatus of more than three decades, the roadworthy pedigree of the impeccably mannered 300M thunders back to the fabled 300 letter series of the '50s and '60s. Robert J. Eaton, Chairman of Chrysler Corporation described it this way. "The 1999 Chrysler 300M embodies the same philosophy and pedigree of those early cars, but with a very contemporary interpretation of what performance has come to mean for this class of car."

In May of 1998, two of the world's most profitable car manufacturers, Daimler-Benz AG and Chrysler Corporation agreed to combine their businesses in a merger of equals. This transaction creates a world class automotive corporation ranked in the world's top three in terms of revenues, market capitalization and earnings. The new company, DaimlerChrysler, is uniquely positioned to exploit the growth opportunities of the global automotive market in terms of geographical and product segment coverage.

As you read this, Chrysler engineers and designers are hard at work at the state-of-the-art Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills, Michigan - developing the innovative vehicles that will define the beginning of the next millennium.

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The 1990's

In spite of some overwhelming tragedies such as what took place in Yugoslavia and the loss of JFK Jr., I suspect the 1990's will be remembered as a decade of achievement, good economic times and hope for the future. Interestingly enough, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan was the choice of A&E for its "Biography of the Year" for 1999. It was probably an excellent choice considering the magic Greenspan has wove over the past decade in terms of keeping the stock market humming, interest rates exceptional and the economy booming for the longest sustained period in American history.

American women won the Gold Cup Soccer competition and the New York Yankees won their 25th World Series Championship in 100 years. We lost the great Yankee Clipper, Joe DiMaggio, who was

instrumental in winning at least seven of those titles. We are all going to learn to watch basketball without Michael Jordan, but unfortunately it looks like we will be following the wonders of Tiger Woods well into the next decade.

On a personal note, the 1990's have been spectacular for myself and my family. We moved here from the "city" in 1995, opened Dodge Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep of Vacaville and have never looked back and have never regretted the decision. Vacaville, truly, is a wonderful place to be. We have been enormously successful and that goes to show you what you can do with a loving family and a committed group of high quality employees. Most importantly of all, we are thankful to our customers and to those in the community who have supported us.

We are now poised to enter the next century and our anticipations are high. We are humble, we are grateful and we are taking nothing for granted. It is my sincere hope that the next 10 years will be as good as the last 10 years

and that each and every resident of our lovely area will have a healthy, prosperous and happy New Year... and New Millennium.

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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Christmas spirit and generosity



Christmas spirits remained high in the 1990s. When the holiday season hits, the residents of Vacaville's Arlene Drive take the spirit to the utmost as they rename the street Candy Cane Lane and light up the neighborhood, drawing sight-seers from around the county. The residents also hold canned food drives during the Christmas holidays.

Reporter file photo

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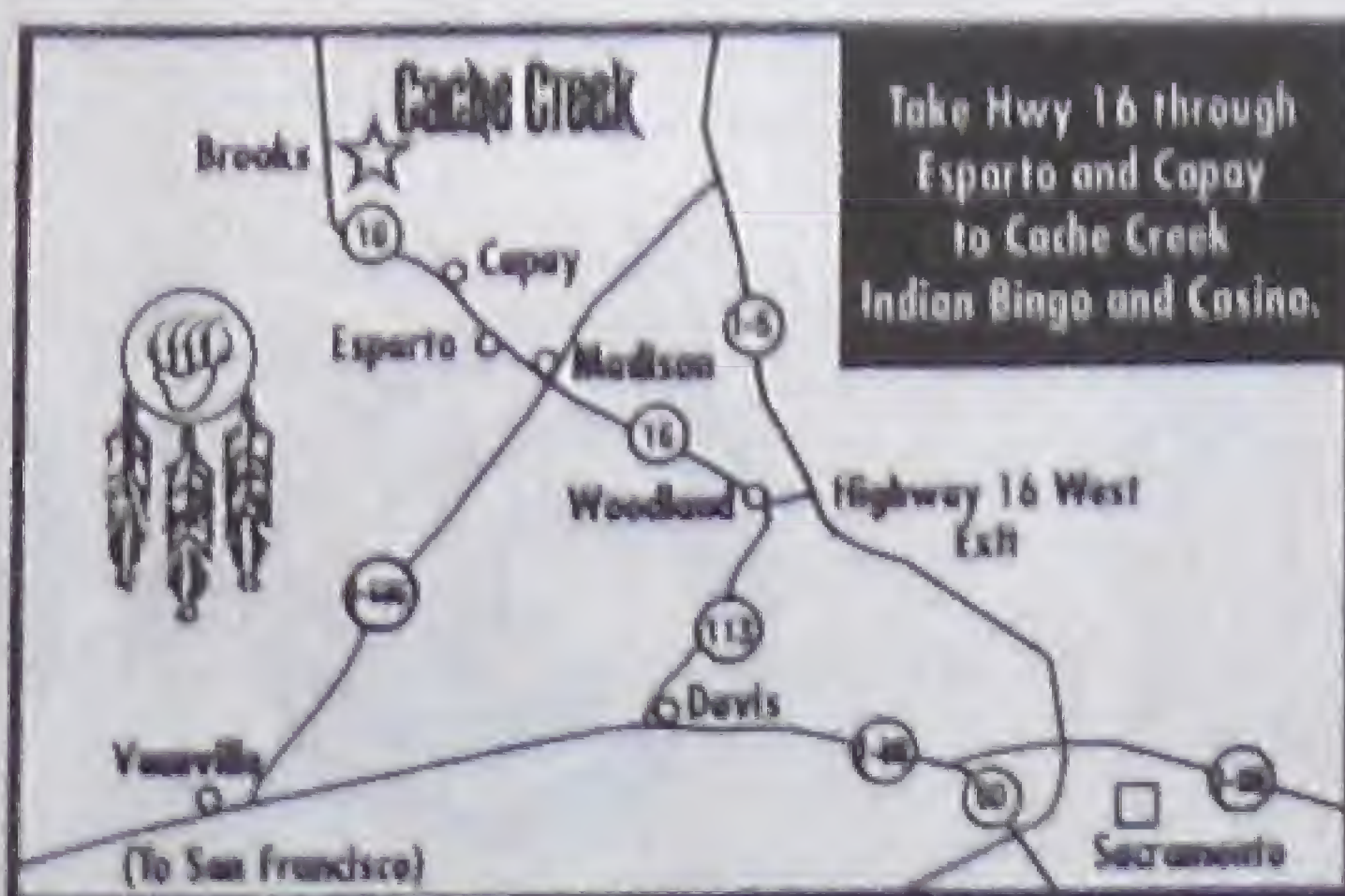
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Fire Department marks centennial with park party

Four-year-old Andrew Lutes had hardly been in Vacaville a day when the Vacaville Fire Department had him rolling in the dust and dripping wet.

Andrew's family just moved to Vacaville from Alabama. They took a break from unpacking to go to the Fire Department's 100th birthday party at Andrews Park.

The drop-and-roll drill had Andrew covered with dust. The water bucket race had him soaked.

"I got too much water in it (the bucket)," he explained, pointing out his soaked shirt. "It got too heavy and when I lifted it and it fell and it got all over me."

Andrew joined hundreds of other youngsters who competed in the Children's Mini Muster.

In four different timed competitions that lasted all day, they raced through an obstacle course, moved three buckets of water, sprayed water with a hose through a tire and followed a winding hose while blindfolded.

The children's events were one of a number of attractions, all held to celebrate the Fire Department's 100 years in Vacaville.

Modern equipment lined the parking lot. Restored vintage firefighting equipment was on display. Firefighters put on puppet shows to teach fire safety. Other firefighters worked the barbecues, cooking

"Firehouse doggers" and selling the hottest item on a hot day — bottled water.

"Things are looking really good. We started to get a crowd right at 10 when we started," said Vacaville Fire Division Chief Jeff Ringelman.

Near the barbecue, three retired firefighters sat in the shade, talking about the department.

"It's nice to just come out here and visit old friends," said G. Warren Hughes, who was chief of the city's one-station Fire Department from 1941 until 1971.

They talked about the time when there was only one station and mostly volunteer firefighters. In the 1940s and early 1950s, they recalled, the department used to hold an annual "stag" party to raise money. The gambling and other party events traditionally lasted more than 24 hours, they said, and raised more than \$2,000 a year.

"We'd go all night and day," said Ed "Hatchet" Pyle, who volunteered with the department for more than 25 years. "Everybody would be over there, even city officials. And the cops wouldn't bother us, they didn't care."

In the afternoon, 12 teams competed in the Adult Mini Muster, and a crowd gathered to watch the fun and hope for some cool overspray....

By Frank Whitlatch,
Staff Writer

The Reporter, Aug. 21, 1995



Lady Fitness employee Linda Shepherd twirls two hoops as she takes a break from her booth during Community Day.

City launches first Community Day

Police and rescue crews came to Andrews Park on Sunday for the city's first Community Day in the Park.

They were joined by hundreds of people, volunteers from various clubs and tae kwon do students showing off their talents. The highlight was a demonstration of a K-9 police dog and an explosives-finding dog from Travis Air Force Base.

Dressed in a thick protective suit, the police dog's trainer ran across the park lawn, acting like an escaping criminal. The dog chased him down and held onto his arm, letting go only after an officer gave the command.

One young boy took the exercise a little too seriously.

"Why doesn't the dog let him go, Daddy?" he asked, as he ran back to his dad's lap.

"Why's he biting him?" "He's not doing what the policeman told him to. So the policeman told the dog to go bite him," he explained.

Then Travis' dog showed how he locates explosives.

Four boxes were set on the lawn, and he found the one with explosive powder. He sat in front of it and was rewarded with his plastic ball....

The event was held to teach people what firefighters and police personnel do. It also gave local groups like Neighborhood Watch a chance to hand out information.

Near the dog demonstration, three mem-

bers of the Vacaville Police Department were getting soaked in the Dunk-A-Cop tank.

At times, people were lined up 30 deep to pay a quarter and get a throw. Most of them were young children.

"I haven't had anybody come up and say they were doing this because I gave them a traffic ticket. At least nobody told me they did," said traffic officer Pat Williams. "It's mostly kids, and I like sitting up there and taunting them."

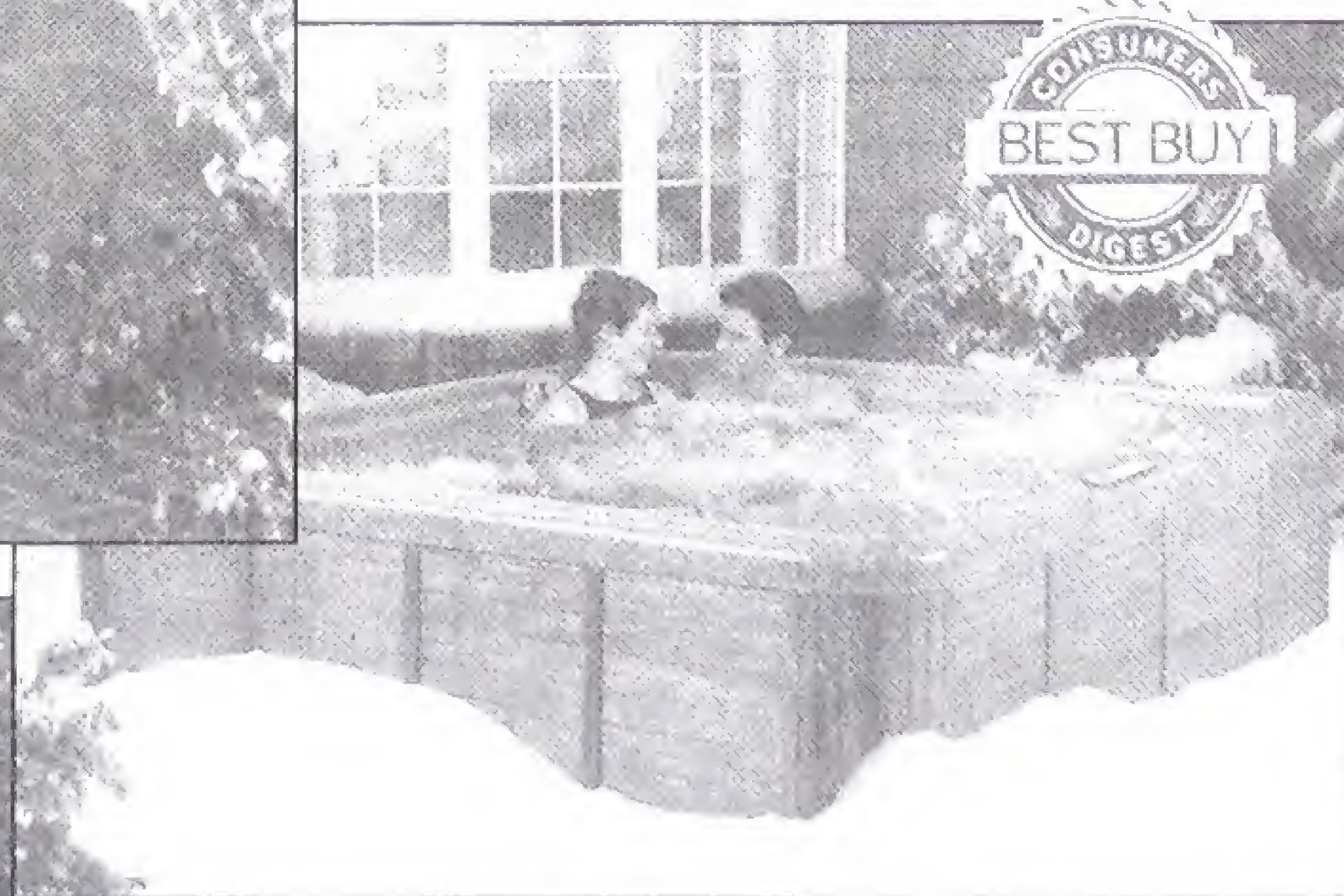
Williams got dunked plenty of times during his one-hour session. Youngsters who couldn't hit the trip lever with a ball were encouraged to run up and push it....

By Frank Whitlatch, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 5, 1995

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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Smog inspection business saved from demolition

Cherry Pit back in saddle following relocation ordeal

A 20-month-long effort to save a Vacaville lube-and-oil business from falling victim to a city street-widening project recently came to a happy end.

Today, the building that now houses the Cherry Pit stands only a few lots away from its original location on the corner of Depot Street and East Monte Vista Avenue, a move which saved the structure from the wrecking ball.

However, nerves are still raw over the debacle.

Mike Cherry, owner of the Cherry Pit on East Monte Vista Avenue, feels he got the "runaround" by city planners and public works officials during his quest to save his business from demolition in the wake of the street-widening project.

"They wanted me to go away," said Cherry. "I had to fight the whole thing tooth and nail."

City officials, on the other hand, say they were burned by the very businessman they tried their best to help.

"Any grumbling or complaining on (Cherry's) part is completely ingenuous," said City Attorney Charles Lamoree. "It's another example of someone we bent over backwards to help who comes back and complains."

The story begins in March 1993, when the city tried to purchase the building from then-owner, Susan Johnson, because the structure stood in the way of plans to widen Depot and Mason streets.

Those negotiations failed, and the city officials met in April 1994 with Cherry, who leased a portion of Johnson's building for his smog business, to discuss his options.

"I contacted some folks in the city and said, 'Can we take a proactive approach?'" said Cherry.

Paul Hom, deputy director of public works for the city, said it was highly unusual to approach Cherry since he wasn't the owner of the property.

"Our contacts are always with the property owner," said Hom. "(Cherry) had no rights to the property."

After considering his options, Cherry decided to take \$20,000 in Caltrans Relocation Assistance money to move the building to 812 East Monte Vista Ave., about 100 feet to the west.

In addition, Lamoree agreed to give the building, which the city took over in August 1994, to Cherry, saving the city between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in demolition costs.

Then the headaches began.

According to Cherry, the city seemed to be throwing up road blocks in every direction.

The widening project was delayed when inspectors found lead contamination in the street facing the property Cherry wanted to buy.

Processing a city and a small business loan for the purchase took a "protracted" period of time. Plans for storm drainage had to be redrawn six times at the city's insistence, costing Cherry about \$7,500.

In the meantime, Cherry moved his smog business to East Main Street. Half of Cherry's customers left, and he was losing money.

"The city doesn't have a concept of time," said Cherry, who believes he lost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 because of the delays. "It was really frustrating, the amount of time seeing nothing happen on this project."

City staffers tell a different story.

According to public works officials, Cherry consistently failed to properly prepare moving plans or meet deadlines, causing the whole widening project to be delayed and pushed into the rainy season.

"(Cherry) had a series of things to get done that he didn't do," said Lamoree. "It took him a year to get all the stuff done to get the building occupied (after it was moved)."



Reporter file photo

Mike Cherry, the owner of the Cherry Pit, completes one of the dozens of vehicles waiting to be smogged.

Hom said city staff had to prepare "practically all" of Cherry's project designs, such as those for the storm drains which simply "didn't work."

"If anything, we protected (Cherry's) interests," said Hom. "He didn't catch on. He wasn't accustomed to how you do it."

Planner John McDowell, who was involved in preparing the permit to allow Cherry to move the building, said the main problem was that Cherry wasn't a developer.

"Mike's new to the system," said McDowell. "There's a little bit of a learning curve. We helped him along a bit on the process."

Cherry said that despite his complaints over the obstacles that delayed the reopening of his business, he's pleased with the ultimate result.

"I'm grateful to be back in business," said Cherry, who added that business has been booming since he opened his doors in October.

"Sure, a lot of (the problems) were probably my own inexperience. The only thing that bothered me is that we were sitting here for a year out of business."

Lamoree said he wanted to help Cherry because "I hated to see a guy go out of business."

By Ben Patterson, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 10, 1995

Vacans wrinkle their noses at stench of Smog Check II

By Elizabeth Murtaugh
Special to The Reporter

Vacaville cried foul in the late 1990s when the state imposed a new set of emissions standards on California's smoggiest regions.

Smog Check II, signed into law in 1994, targeted several Southern California cities and a handful of Central Valley cities with populations over 50,000. The latter included Vacaville, Davis and Sacramento.

Service stations and smog inspectors were forced to replace emissions-testing equipment with \$60,000 machines called "dynamometers," designed to detect nitrous oxides, the chemical that makes smog brown. Vehicle owners dug deeper into their wallets, forking over some \$70 per test, twice what they paid under the previous Smog Check program.

In 1996, many Vacaville residents aired their gripes in rallies at the State Capitol. Local smog shop owners joined forces with Vacaville Mayor David Fleming and other officials to publicly protest the new standards. The Solano County Board of Supervisors lobbied other counties to rally against the law and urged the Bureau of Automotive Repair to let Solano County pilot its own program.

It's not that critics didn't favor a concerted effort to reduce air pollution. In fact, several from

Vacaville took lead roles in the Taxpayer Alliance for Pollution Prevention, a watchdog group formed after a 1996 rally in Sacramento.

They complained it was unfair for Vacaville and other Central Valley communities to be held responsible for smog that drifts inland from the Bay Area, which, along with Fairfield, was exempt from Smog Check II.

Despite the protests, Gov. Wilson implemented the program.

And in February 1998, a Solano County judge threw out Vacaville's lawsuit that had sought either to remove Vacaville from Smog Check II or to include the Bay Area. The ruling — which maintained that only a person, not a municipality, could challenge Smog Check II — gave Vacaville a chance to refile the suit.

Vacaville City Attorney Charles Lamoree did just that, naming Mayor Fleming and himself as plaintiffs. That didn't fly either. Later that year, the suit was thrown out again on grounds that it had no legal merit.

In August, state Sen. Mike Thompson, D-Solano, announced he'd reached a tentative agreement with Gov. Wilson to drop Vacaville and other small cities out of Smog Check II. But the governor reneged, and in the end local residents had to endure the new emissions test.

Retiring congressman's tenure quenches constituents' needs

A farmer in Dixon who survives on his ability to coax crops from the soil. A medical student at the University of California, Davis, who dreams of curing cancer. A military couple stationed at McClellan Air Force Base struggling to sustain a growing family.

They have little else in common, but they all rely on the same congressman to protect their interests.

After next year, it will no longer be Vic Fazio.

The veteran lawmaker staggered constituents and colleagues, announcing his retirement in order to spend more time with his family. With the emotions of Monday's event behind him, he described what it takes to be an effective representative for the 3rd District.

"(The district) has tremendous diversity," Fazio said in an interview with The Reporter. "But each (constituent) deserves time, attention, a good ear, and when you can, good advocacy."

It extends to the floor of the House of Representatives, where members need to convince colleagues to support their projects.

"To get other people to join you is important for a congressman," said Fazio, the third-ranking House Democrat. "It's not just how you vote — it's how many people join you to strengthen your cause."

Water is the common denominator in a sprawling district that runs from eastern Solano County to Red Bluff, he said.

"Water crosses all bounds — it's important to environmentalists, local government, water districts, farmers, industrial users," Fazio said. "It's a transcendent interest in my district."

He joined the House Appropriations Energy and Water Subcommittee for that reason.

"I wanted California to be represented in an area where we've never really had a lot of influence," said Fazio, who also serves on the agriculture, rural development and Food and Drug

Administration subcommittees.

It is too early to tell who will replace him, he said, but he questioned assumptions that Assemblywoman Barbara Alby of Fair Oaks would be the Republican nominee for his seat.

The 3rd District usually elects moderates — not people as conservative as Alby, Fazio said....

"My party needs to find a candidate of moderation who can be appealing across the spectrum and across the district," Fazio said. "Someone who comes from west of the river representing smaller communities and agriculture would have a good opportunity here."

When the time comes to surrender the keys to his Capitol Hill office, Fazio is not sure where he will go next. But at 55, he figures he has at least another 10 working years, so the East Coast might keep him a while longer.

Rumors have Fazio as a front-runner to replace White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, who is expected to retire soon. But Fazio has not spoken with President Clinton since they were together in Yolo County last weekend.

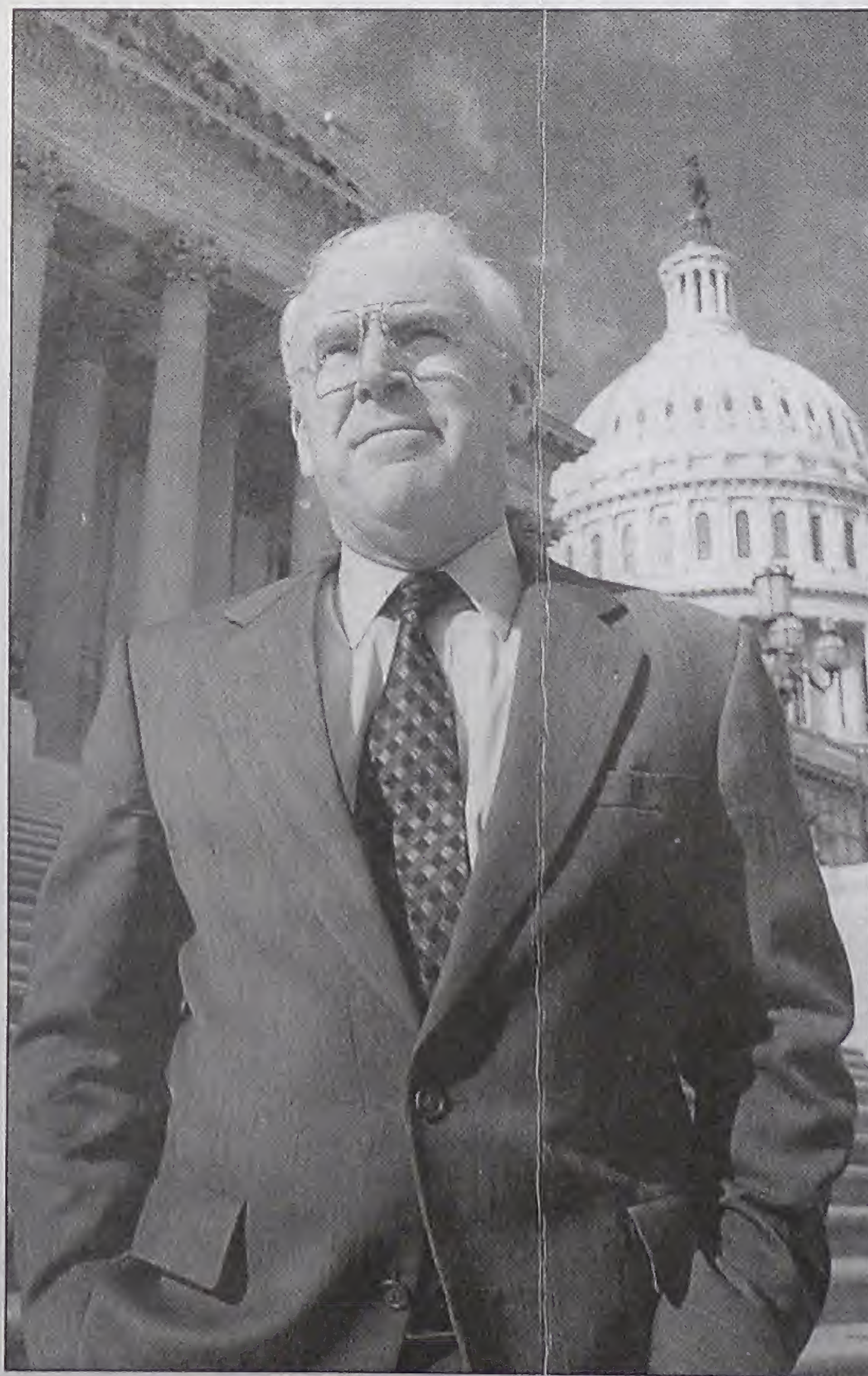
"My options are going to emerge over the next year, and whatever they may be, public or private, I hope to have the time to evaluate them," Fazio said.

He and his wife, Judy, will likely retire in Northern California.

Although content with his decision, he will miss serving in Congress.

"(I'll miss) the people who have become such good friends, who have taken my side on so many important issues, who have been there in the tough times for me. It sounds trite, but that's absolutely the case," Fazio said. "I've been blessed by so many good friends that helped me get started. These are the people I'll always treasure."

By Kerri Regan, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 20, 1997

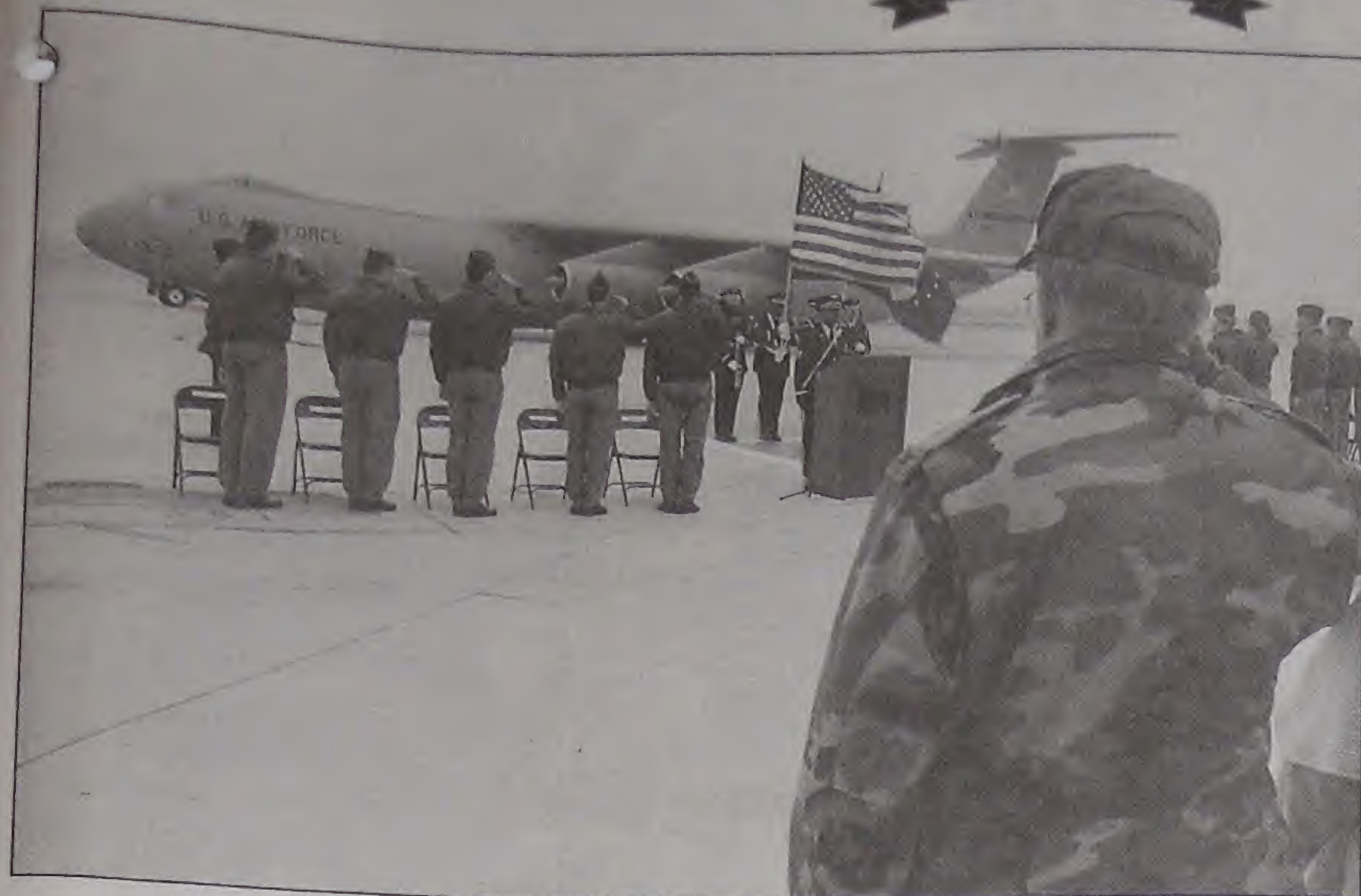


Rep. Vic Fazio in Washington, D.C., surprised most when he announced his decision to end a 20-year stint as the 3rd District's voice in the House of Representatives.

Reporter file photo

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY



Crews bid farewell to 'old faithful'

C-141 makes final flight from Travis to its new home

What happened at Travis Air Force Base on Tuesday was much more than about goodbyes.

It also was about the end of an era and a love affair as generals and airmen, the old and the young, the famous and the ordinary gathered in a freezing wind to see an old friend off.

That old friend was Travis' last C-141, which departed the airstrip for its new home at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

Scores scribbled their goodbyes in chalk across the sides of the 32-year-old aircraft.

"Thanks for taking care of me," wrote one man.

"Thanks for the memories. You were the best," wrote another.

"Take care of my baby," wrote Staff Sgt. David Giancespro, who was in charge of the aircraft's maintenance during its last 18 months at Travis.

"It's a big baby, but it's a good baby," said Giancespro, as he stood alongside the 168-foot-long aircraft one last time.

While new aircraft is replacing the C-141, Giancespro said "new isn't always better." It was a sentiment echoed by

many others on Tuesday.

"This is a nuts-and-bolts, grease-under-the-fingernails kind of plane. It gets the job done. It's a lot like an old pickup truck, simple, yet dependable, like Old Faithful. And I like it that way," Giancespro said.

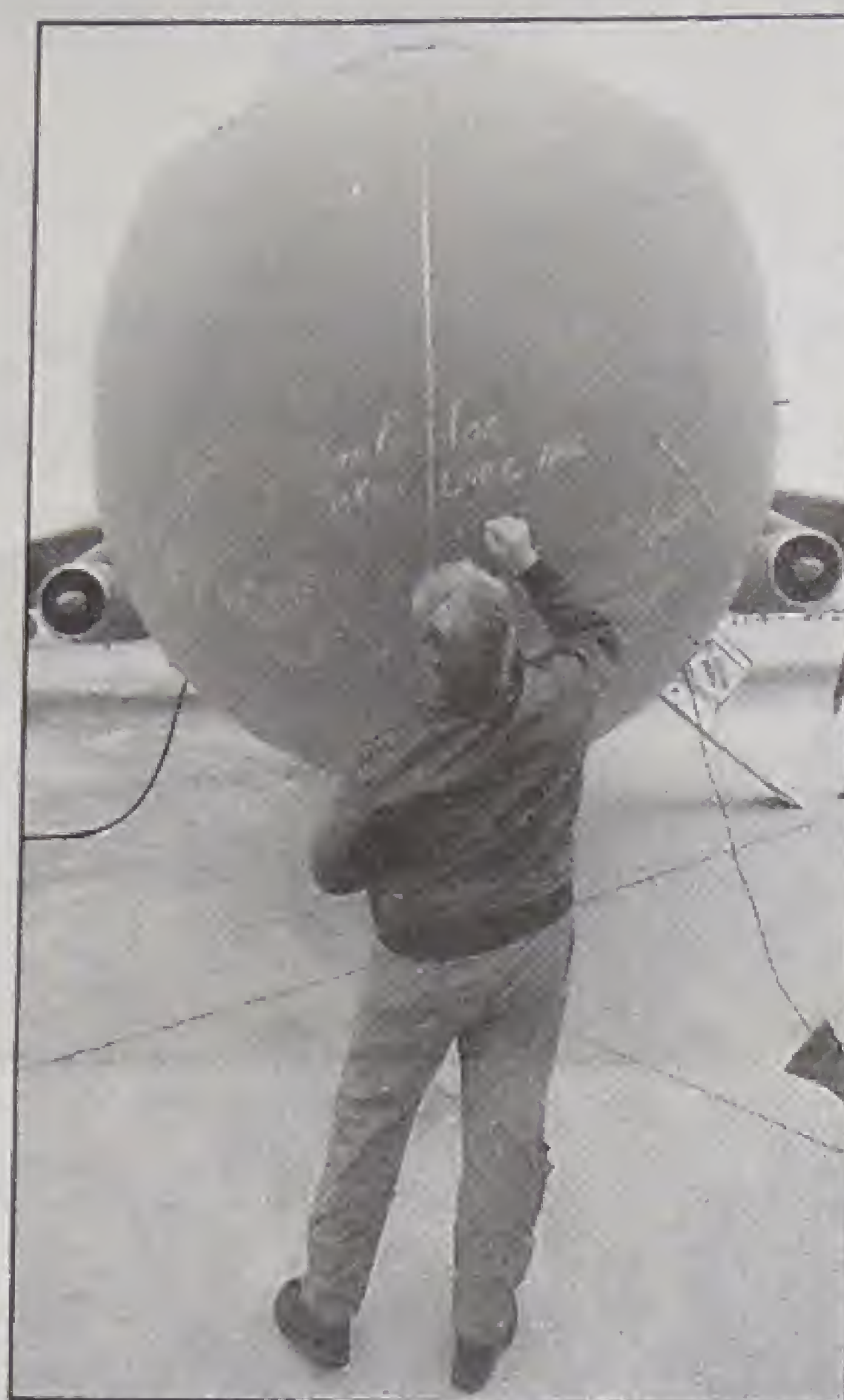
"It still doesn't seem like this is it. I guess it hasn't hit me yet," said Master Sgt. Bill Friedrich, who has gone to Africa and Asia, South America and Antarctica, New Zealand, Iceland and Greenland, all in a C-141.

Vacaville Mayor David Fleming said Elvis Presley's father-in-law was a navigator at Travis when it got its first C-141, "The Golden Bear."

"And a young captain named Dave Fleming was dying to fly in a new C-141."

Fleming got that chance, flying aboard a C-141 into Vietnam under mortar attack. He remembered loading those wounded in battle onto a C-141 and taking off again, still under mortar attack.

He recalled coming home from Vietnam aboard a C-141 with a load of nothing but caskets. And of the time when the



Crewmembers (above) of the 20th Airlift Squadron, 602nd Aircraft Generation Squadron, 710th Airlift Squadron (reserve) and the 349th Aircraft Generation Squadron (reserve) salute during a ceremony for the C-141's final flight. Master Sgt. Bill Friedrich (left) writes a farewell message in chalk on the nose of a C-141 Starlifter.

Reporter file photos

first POWs from the Hanoi Hilton came home aboard a C-141.

He remembers chasing the sun in a C-141 on a flight from the Philippines to Bangkok to Singapore to Bombay and New Delhi.

"The people of Vacaville wish to express their appreciation for the C-141 era," one marked by "professionalism

and dedication," Fleming said.

Brig. Gen. George N. Williams, commander of Travis' 60th Air Mobility Wing, said: "This flight today brings to a close a long distinguished era in the history of Travis. It's both a day to celebrate and mourn the loss of a friend and a warrior."

By John Scheibe, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 17, 1997

Air Force sheds light on 1950 crash

After a 44-year coverup, the U.S. Air Force admits an atomic bomb — minus its nuclear core — was aboard the plane that crashed at Travis Air Force Base on Aug. 5, 1950, killing Brig. Gen. Robert Travis and 18 others.

Travis officials are still reluctant to discuss the accident in detail and insist there was never any danger of a nuclear explosion.

Further complicating recent revelations is the fact military authorities concede they do not know for certain if there was nuclear material on the B-29 bomber.

"I don't think anybody could say that, but I can't say the sun's going to come up tomorrow either," said Lt. Col. Dennis Green, chief environmental officer. "Travis was one of the bases where nuclear weapons were being stored. ... The aircraft was containing a nuclear weapon. It was a large weapon. But the nuclear component (to donate the bomb) was not present on the plane."

Minutes later in an interview at the crash site, Green said 100 pounds of "depleted uranium" was on board. He was unsure why, was unsure what it was, and did not know if it had anything to do with the

Tests show no radioactive materials found at air base

The Air Force has re-evaluated tests for radioactive material near an elementary school on Travis Air Force Base and found "there is nothing there," according to a base official.

Official results will be released after review by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said Lt. Col. Mack McLaurin.

"Results were good. There was nothing there," he said.

At a June 27 press confer-

nuclear bomb.

Just two years after the crash, military officials permitted construction of an elementary school less than 200 yards from the site. Travis Elementary School is temporarily closed for asbestos removal, but the recent revelations raise issues of past safety ... and the wisdom of its re-opening.

Revelations confirm what for decades has been scoffed at as local legend. Those who lived in Solano County at the time of the accident ... always

speculated there was more to the story than the Air Force was telling.

Officials concede the military lied for decades. ... They now admit the plane was headed to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and possibly further.

Nineteen people died as a result of the Aug. 5 accident, including Brig. Gen. Travis. Another 60 were injured. The blast was heard 30 miles away and the fire could be seen from as far as 65 miles. It damaged

48 trailer homes, 20 cars, a private dwelling, a commercial garage, four store windows and 10 acres of private property.

An eyewitness, in a candid 1987 interview, confirmed that an atomic bomb was on board.

Col. Ray Holsey said the plane was secretly carrying the weapons outside the country.

Green said that given the timing of the crash — four days after the start of the Korean War — it would seem likely

Hickam was not the final destination. "It's a logical conclusion it was going somewhere else. The flight destination said it was going to Hickam, but most of the old-timers and observers said Guam..."

He was interviewed 37 years after the crash by retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Russell Waldron. Holsey died in an airplane crash 15 days later.

Holsey said the airplane was loaded with a fourth-generation O Mark IV, an implosion bomb similar to the one dropped during World War II on Nagasaki.

Holsey's testimony does not indicate whether any nuclear material was on board.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Feb. 11, 1994

Local base vital to humanitarian and war efforts

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

Throughout the '90s, personnel at Travis Air Force Base — which marked its 50th anniversary in 1996 — were called upon to support a variety of war and humanitarian efforts.

In 1990, Travis was brought in to help with Operation Desert Shield, as the United States called the Mideast troop buildup that preceded the Persian Gulf War.

By the time the Desert Storm erupted in January 1991, nearly 1,000 Travis men and women — active duty and reservists — were involved. Many were ferrying troops and cargo in and out of the area. Others were providing medical help, in the Mideast as well as Europe. They stayed on the job even after the 2-month-long war to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait came to an end.

In 1992, active and reserve personnel at Travis were called upon to help during several disasters. Planeloads of relief workers left Travis to help clean up after hurricanes Andrew in Florida and Iniki in Hawaii, and officials used the base to send people and supplies to help in Somalia as part of Operation Restore Hope.

Also in 1992, Veterans Administration officials announced plans to build a new hospital near the base's David Grant Medical Center, to replace the main Veterans Hospital in Martinez that was shut down because of earthquake safety concerns.

Funding, officials said, would depend on Congress. It never came. The plans were killed in 1997.

New plans call for a 42,000-square-foot outpatient clinic to be built at Travis, while as many as 100 beds at David Grant — up from 60 — would be dedicated to veteran care.

In 1993, Travis became home to the 22nd Airlift and Refuel-

ing Wing, bringing nearly 1,000 newcomers to the area.

Also that year, a fire and explosion at the base destroyed a C-141B transport jet, causing major damage to the tarmac. In 1997, the facility officially said goodbye to all of the C-141s — called the "workhorse of the sky" — and the cargo planes headed for a new home in New Jersey.

Travis hit the headlines in 1994, when Air Force officials conceded that a B-29 aircraft that crashed there in 1950 had been carrying an atomic bomb — minus its nuclear core. Rumors about the bomb had persisted for years but, until the story broke, the Air Force had denied any weapons were on board in the crash that killed 19 people, including the base's namesake, Brig. Gen. Robert Travis.

That same year, two complete C-5A Galaxy reserve crews, some of their members from Vacaville, flew nearly 24 straight hours to shuttle water purification equipment to plague-ridden Zaire. The hope was to give survivors of a civil war in the neighboring African nation of Rwanda clean water for drinking and cooking.

In 1995, Travis personnel again found themselves called upon to provide humanitarian aid in the aftermath of tragedy. Nearly 200 Travis workers were sent to help run Camp Pello, a United Nations compound outside Zagreb, Croatia. Travis personnel also flew people and materials to Oklahoma City, where they were used to help search for victims after the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was bombed on April 19, 1995.

Travis crews went to Haiti in 1994, as part of a mission to uphold a democratically elected government. Just this year, members of Travis' 60th Medical Group were sent back to the Caribbean nation, this time on a U.N. humanitarian mission.

Pair rescued from plane crash site

Two enlisted Navy men were rescued Wednesday from the wreckage of a single-engine plane, after spending 44 hours struggling to survive in wet and windswept Mix Canyon.

Pilot Keith Wilson, 22, a former Vacaville resident, and passenger Ricardo "Rick" Morales, 23, were on leave from the Alameda Naval Air Station. They were saved by a dramatic rescue effort that included four helicopters and more than 20 emergency workers, some of whom were forced to hike over a mile up the rugged face of Mount Vaca to reach the crash site.

Wilson and Morales had been flying on a day trip from Concord to Sacramento when their plane crashed around 5:30 p.m. Monday, after a stop at the Nut Tree Airport.

Wilson was taken by Coast Guard helicopter to the John Muir Hospital Trauma Center in Walnut Creek, where he was in fair condition with a broken left arm and a broken nose. Morales was in stable condition Wednesday night at David Grant Medical Center...

Morales tried to go for help during the lengthy ordeal, but was stopped by a broken right heel and cuts and bruises. He helped save Wilson by putting out flames after the crash, suffering burns to his right hand.

He later told rescue workers that he used a cigarette lighter

and a torn T-shirt to start fires so he and Wilson could stay warm during nights when temperatures dipped into the low 40s.

When rescuers arrived, Wilson was under the wreckage and "on the edge of life and death," according to John Arrabit, a California Highway Patrol flight officer and paramedic. Arrabit was the first on the scene with Civil Air Patrol pilot Patrick Clark, who spotted the crashed P-A 28 Piper Warrior.

Arrabit landed the Highway Patrol helicopter on a steep hill above the canyon, about a mile and a half off Blue Ridge Road. He and Clark crawled under a blanket with Wilson to help keep him warm until other rescuers arrived.

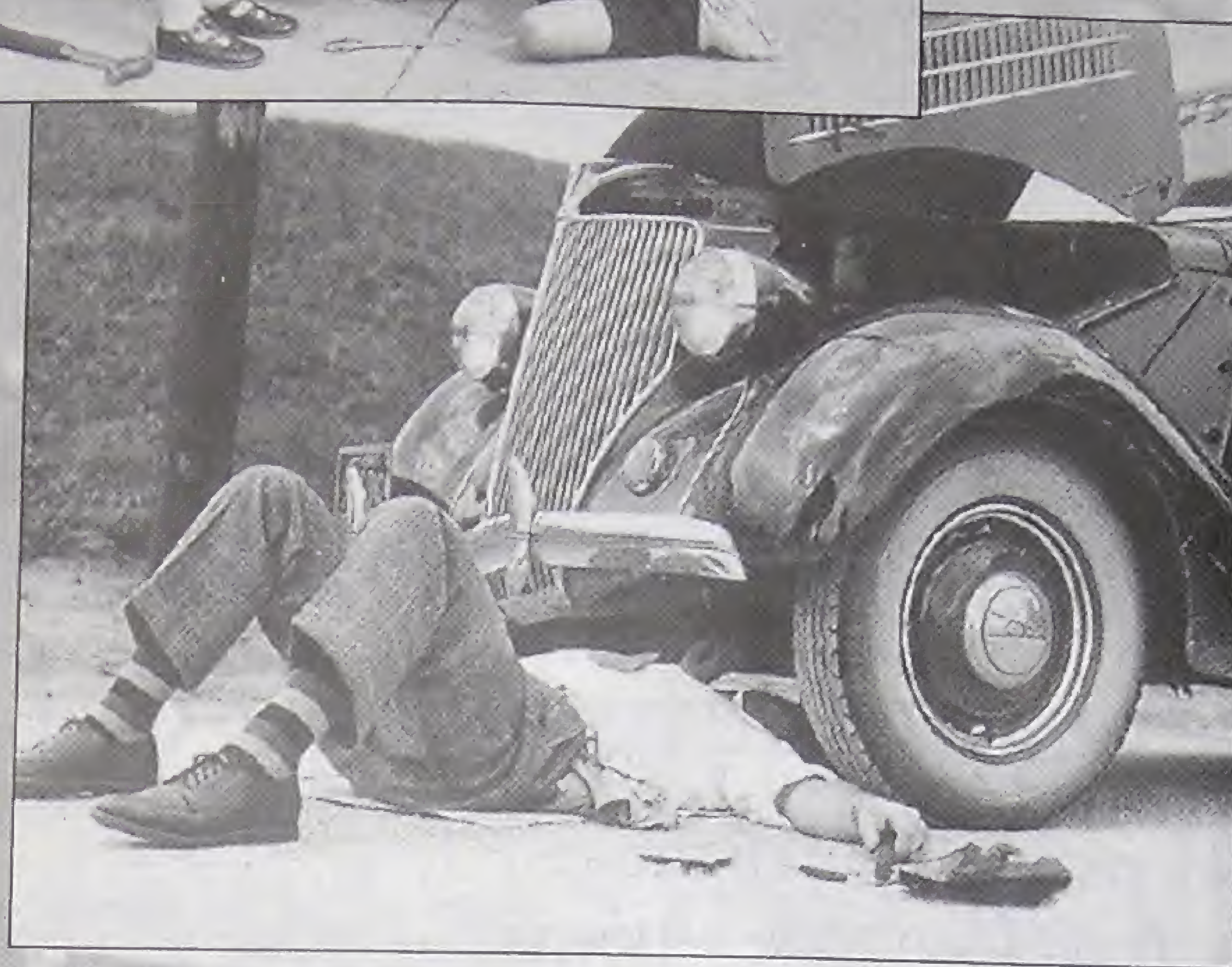
"Rick was waving and yelling (that) his buddy was in bad shape," Arrabit said.

A helicopter from the Sonoma County Sheriff's department, piloted by David Boyce, lifted the injured men to a muddy firebreak in rainy, foggy conditions. About 14 rescue workers from the Vacaville Fire Protection District hiked into the remote area, carrying stretchers.

The plane was not noticed missing until Tuesday morning. John Swizer, Nut Tree Airport manager, said a review of flight records at Nut Tree helped focus the search near Vacaville.

By Don Harness, Staff Writer
The Reporter, March 18, 1993

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THE PAST CENTURY

Fatal shootings by police unusual

The fatal shooting of a hit-and-run suspect marked just the third time in at least a quarter-century that Vacaville police have had to use deadly force, according to the police chief.

"I've been here since 1973, and I can't remember a time prior to (1981) when someone was shot and killed by an officer of the Vacaville Police Department," said Police Chief Mike Cook.

"We've had officers shot at, and we've returned fire, but the only person hit was a police officer prior to 1981," Cook added.

Three officers — two from Vacaville and one from Fairfield — opened fire on Doron Robert Lifton, 33, after he fled an accident scene and allegedly battered Vacaville police Sgt. Scott Paulin with a metal pipe.

Paulin suffered bruised ribs and was treated and released from an area hospital.

An officer-involved fatal incident protocol team will investigate the shooting, which is routine.

The other two times that police killed suspected criminals were ruled justifiable homicides by the district attorney.

Sgt. Randy Weaver, then a detective, killed 20-year-old burglary suspect Christopher Dale Chatham on Sept. 19, 1991, after a high-speed chase through south Vacaville.

Weaver fired seven shots at the stolen sedan Chatham was driving after he burglarized a gun shop. Chatham was attempting to run over Weaver when the detective opened fire.

Seven years earlier, Weaver

shot and killed Jim Trevino, 23, who threatened police with a knife.

After slashing his wrists, Trevino had closed himself in a bathroom for about 90 minutes before bursting out of the bathroom, shouting that he was going to kill someone and lunging at then-Sgt. Craig Rossiter with a knife.

Rossiter, now a lieutenant with the Police Department, fired one shot and missed, and Weaver shot at Trevino three times, hitting him twice in the chest.

Before this week, the most recent officer-involved shooting was July 17, 1996, though it is unclear if Air Force Maj. Lloyd Moody would have died from wounds inflicted by four Vacaville police officers in a gunbattle.

Moody, 44, armed with an automatic assault rifle, opened fire on officer Chris Decious.

Decious and officers Bryan Neal, John Miller and James Smith returned fire, hitting Moody in the hand and hip. Moody retreated into his 190 Buttercup Circle home, and police heard shots fired soon afterwards.

His body was found in an upstairs bedroom, and police discovered that he had also fatally shot his wife, Linda.

The officers involved in the Moody incident received medals of valor after that occurrence, the first such medals awarded in the Police Department's 147-year history.

By Kerri Regan, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Oct. 5, 1997



Stella Henthorn (from left), Renee Hensley and Jeri Biagi look over Christmas trees during the first Festival of Trees in 1991.

Festival's roots in religious community

Festival of Trees is not what most people might call a religious experience.

Yet Vacaville's annual Christmas tree auction was conceived eight years ago as a way to turn faith into action, and it continues today as one of the few events that garners support from nearly every segment of the city's faith community.

"I don't think we ever had the vision that it would turn out like it has," says Giselle Bell, one of the founders. "Everybody took to the idea and ran with it."

The Festival, which opens ... at Three Oaks Community Center, raises money for Opportunity House, the city's homeless shelter.

Individuals and groups donate ornaments, crafts, baked goods and magnificently decorated Christmas trees to be sold outright or auctioned off. They provide music and entertainment for the shoppers.

Volunteers watch over the trees, sell the goodies and collect the money.

While the festival now includes many secular participants, its roots lie in the religious community.

The idea for the event came in the fall of 1990 as Bell was looking for a community service project for the junior- and senior-high age girls group she was leading at the First Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"Our focus with our youth is that if you are going to be disciples of Christ, you have to do what he did. You have to lift the hands that hang down," she says.

At the time, Opportunity House was just opening, and the area's churches, through what is now the Vacaville Christian Ministerial Association, had pledged to support it.

The shelter would take in people by

referral only; local churches would pay \$10 a night for each person they sponsored.

Bell saw the festival as a way for churches to raise that money.

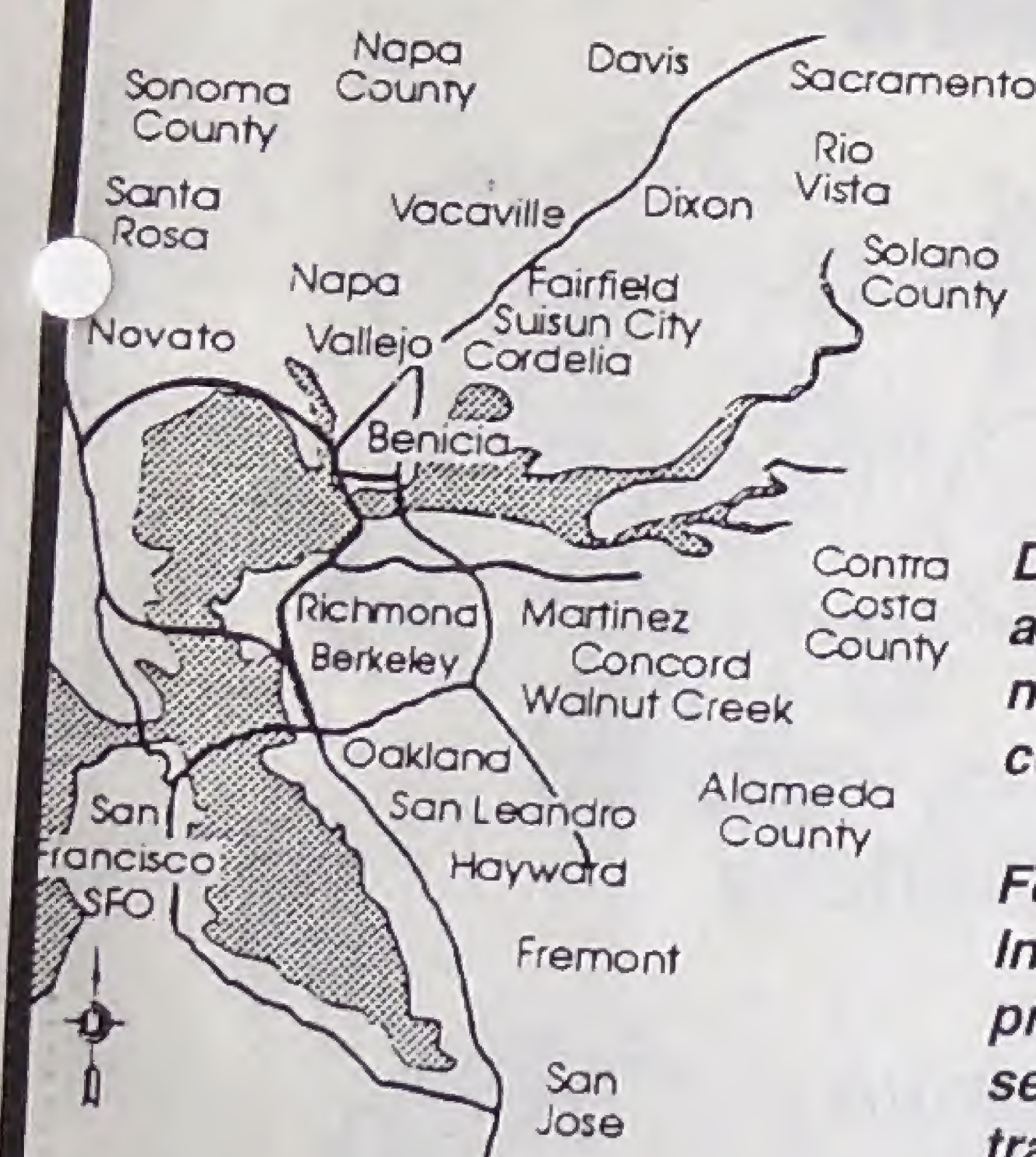
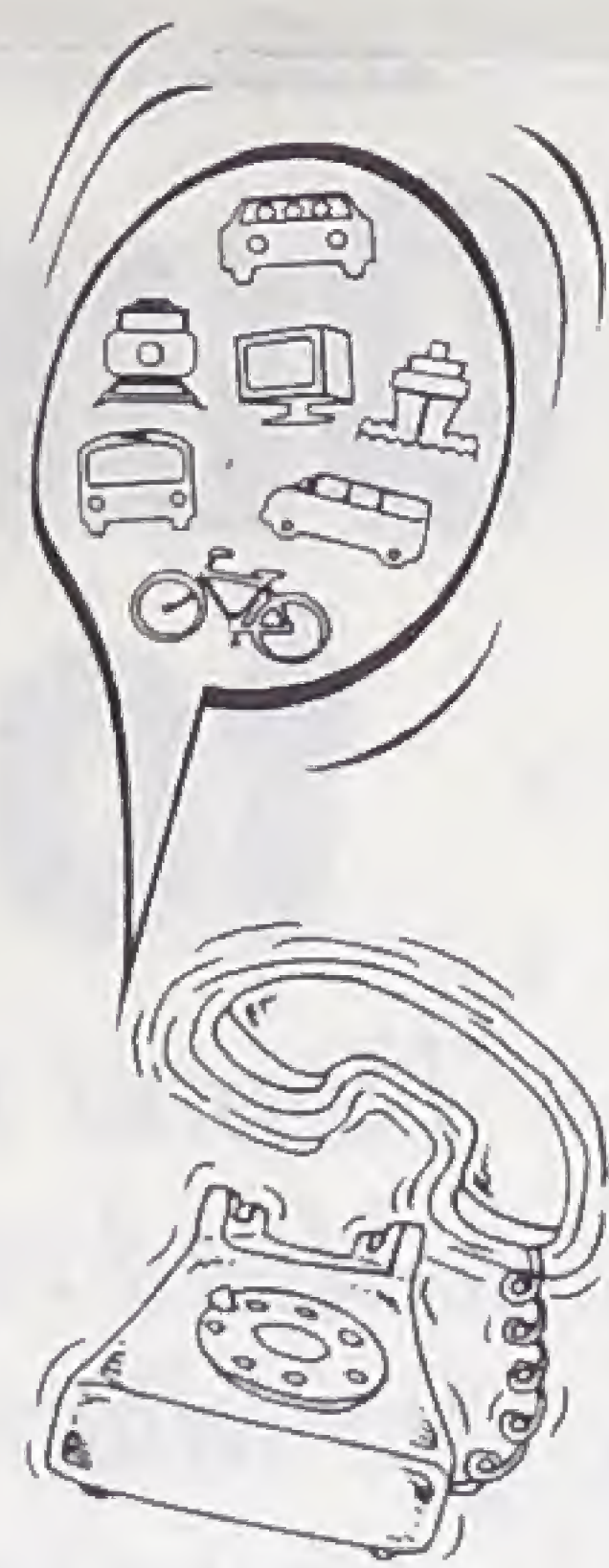
"We thought it would be a neat way to celebrate Christ's birthday, by helping the homeless. ... The first person we went to was Father Murphy," Bell says, referring to the priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church, home to the local St. Vincent de Paul society that helps people in need. "He readily accepted the idea."

Giving churches a way to set aside doctrinal differences and work on something that benefits people is one of the blessings the Festival brings to the community, says Brian Wright, director of education at Bethany Lutheran Church.

By Karen Nolan, Reporter correspondent
The Reporter, Nov. 28, 1998

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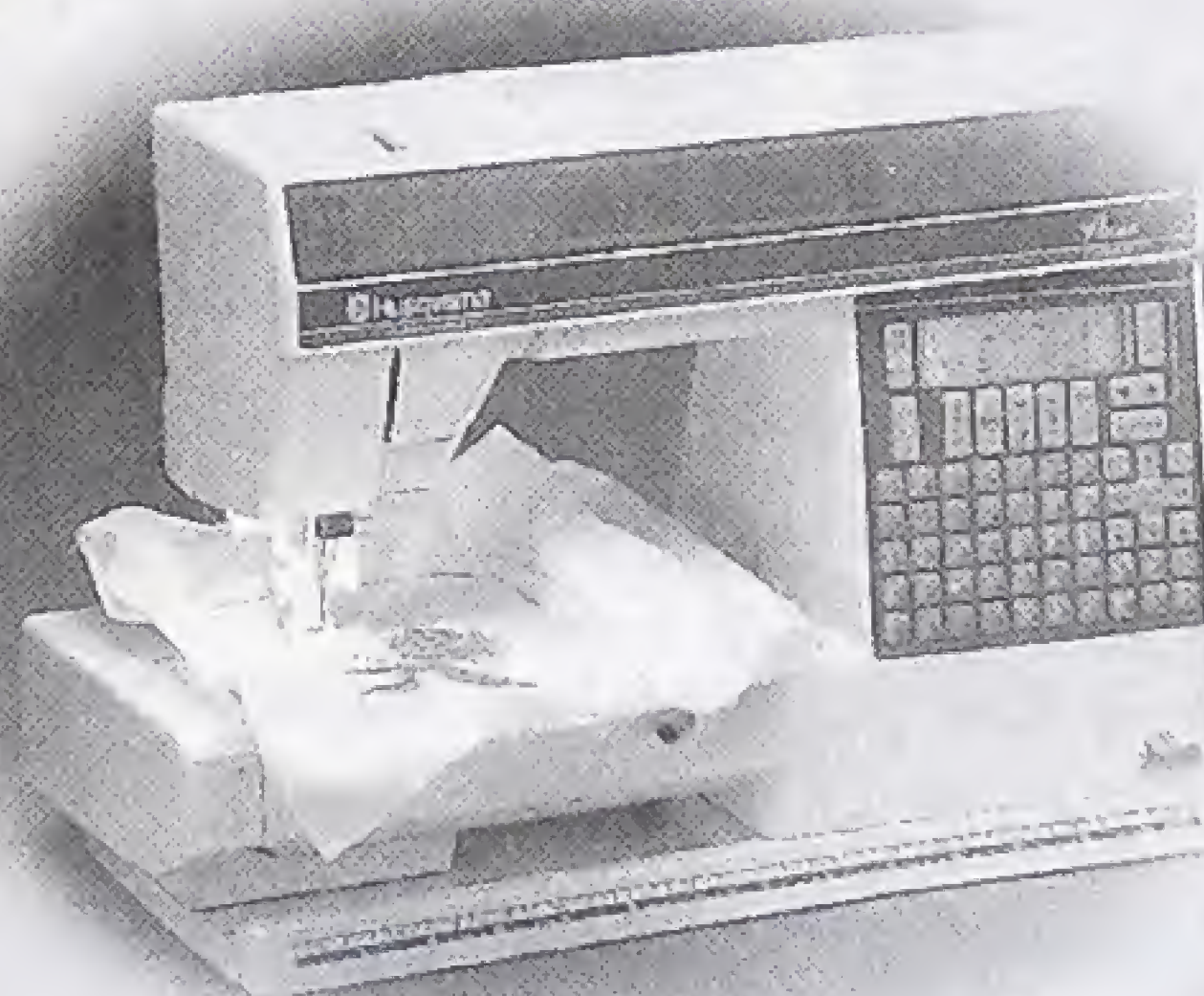
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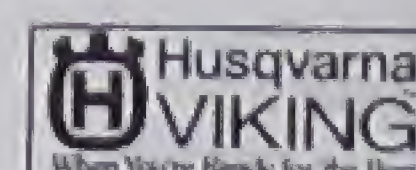


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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

City set to begin recycling effort

Bins for tin and lots more

Vacaville's curbside recycling program begins Monday, and in preparation, city residents are receiving their 18-gallon yellow recycling bins.

The city is delivering the yellow tubs to doorsteps throughout the city. Residents are asked to pile recyclable materials in the tubs and then place them next to trash bins on the curb on their regular trash collection days.

The new recycling program comes in response to a state law that mandates every city and county make a "good-faith" effort to cut trash flow in half by next year. Cities that don't reach the goal could be fined up to \$10,000 a day until they do.

Vacaville officials aren't anticipating such fines, even though they admit the new program won't enable the city to reach the goal.

The idea, they say, is to show a good-faith effort, which they say is the purpose of the new program.

Residents will see an increase on their bills of about \$1.21 per month per household for the curbside service.

The program will cost Vacaville about \$1 million a year, but the city is expecting to recoup \$263,000 annually from the materials.

Money isn't the issue with city leaders, though. The point of the program, and recycling programs across the state, is to reduce the flow to state landfills.

Connie Donovan, the city's recycling coordinator, said the city has been engaged in an all-out education process. In addition to the bins, the city has mailed out information, deliv-



Everardo Ponce of E.P. Truck service displays a recycle bin at Vacaville Sanitary where the containers are being distributed. The curbside recycling program is the result of a state mandate requiring a decrease in trash flow to landfills.

Reporter file photo

ered door hangers, magnets and other items, all in an effort to make the public aware of the new program and to encourage participation.

The recyclable materials, about 300 tons a month, will go to a recycling center at Vallejo Garbage Service.

The Reporter, July 1, 1999

What can be put in the recyclable bin?

- Newspapers, magazines and chipboard
- No. 1 and No. 2 narrow-neck plastic bottles and jugs
- Tin and aluminum cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Corrugated cardboard

Agencies building foundations in Solano County

Low-income families hoping to own their own homes often just need a helping hand, not a handout.

That's the motto of Habitat for Humanity, a worldwide, nonprofit home-builder noted partly for its ability to attract celebrities, such as former President Jimmy Carter, to work as volunteer laborers.

It's also noted for the breadth of its efforts. Since its creation in 1976, it has built more than 50,000 houses throughout the world.

Soon, the group will boost its total by building a duplex in Vacaville. The project will be its first in town.

Habitat for Humanity has built houses in Fairfield and Vallejo, and is looking at other cities in Solano County.

"We're trying to get something going in Dixon. So far, nothing is on the drawing board," said William R. McGregor, president of the group's Solano County chapter.

He said Habitat for Humanity is talking to city officials about building a project in Benicia and hopes to undertake a project in Rio Vista.

In Fairfield, another nonprofit builder is almost ready to break ground on Union Peach Estates, a sweat-equity project that will consist of 18 houses on a 4-acre site. Sacramento-based Rural California Housing Corp. has helped about 2,200 low-income families in California become homeowners through its Self-Help Housing Program.

RCHC hopes to start construction in July on its project at Peachtree and Ellen courts in Fairfield.

Buyers will help keep costs down by doing some of the construction work themselves. "They do about 70 percent of the construction themselves under a construction supervi-

sor we provide," said Chris Glaudel, project manager for RCHC.

The group estimates the value of a buyer's sweat equity at about 10 percent of the purchase price. Loans from the city of Fairfield's redevelopment agency and other funding also will help eligible buyers.

To qualify for the program, households must have good credit and incomes no higher than 80 percent of the median incomes for households of the same size in Solano County. For a family of four, the maximum income is a little less than \$40,000.

Habitat for Humanity targets its houses at families that earn no more than 50 percent of median incomes. "We try to build a decent, affordable home," McGregor said.

He said Habitat for Humanity has a site lined up for its Vacaville project, but declined to say where it is, noting that details still are being worked out.

Nationwide, a typical three-bedroom house built by the group costs the buyer about \$38,000.

In Solano County, the group tries to keep prices in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range, McGregor said.

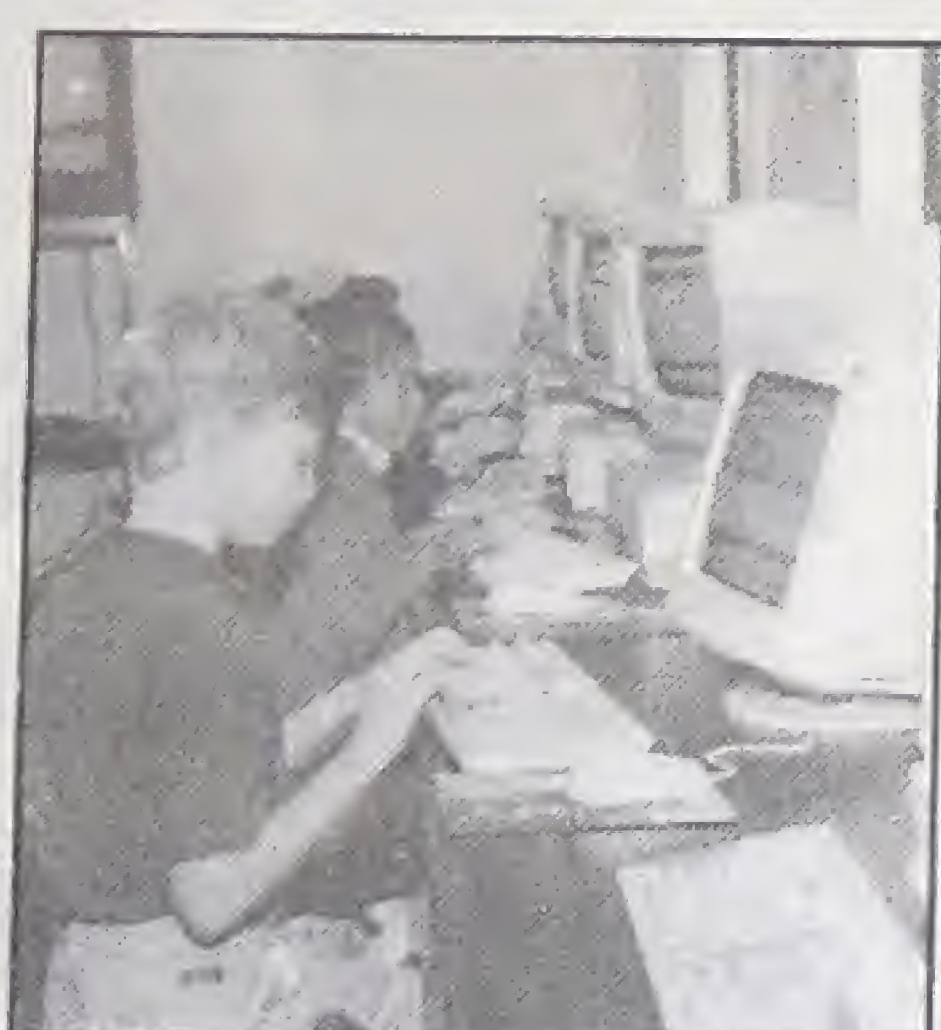
He said Habitat for Humanity still is looking for funding help on the Vacaville project. "We have enough to get things started and rolling."

To help out, the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors is donating proceeds from its annual fashion show to Habitat for Humanity this year.

A Habitat for Humanity fact sheet says the amount of sweat equity required varies from area to area, but between 300 to 500 hours per family is common.

By Mike Fitch, Staff Writer
The Reporter, May 17, 1997

Vacaville Christian Schools

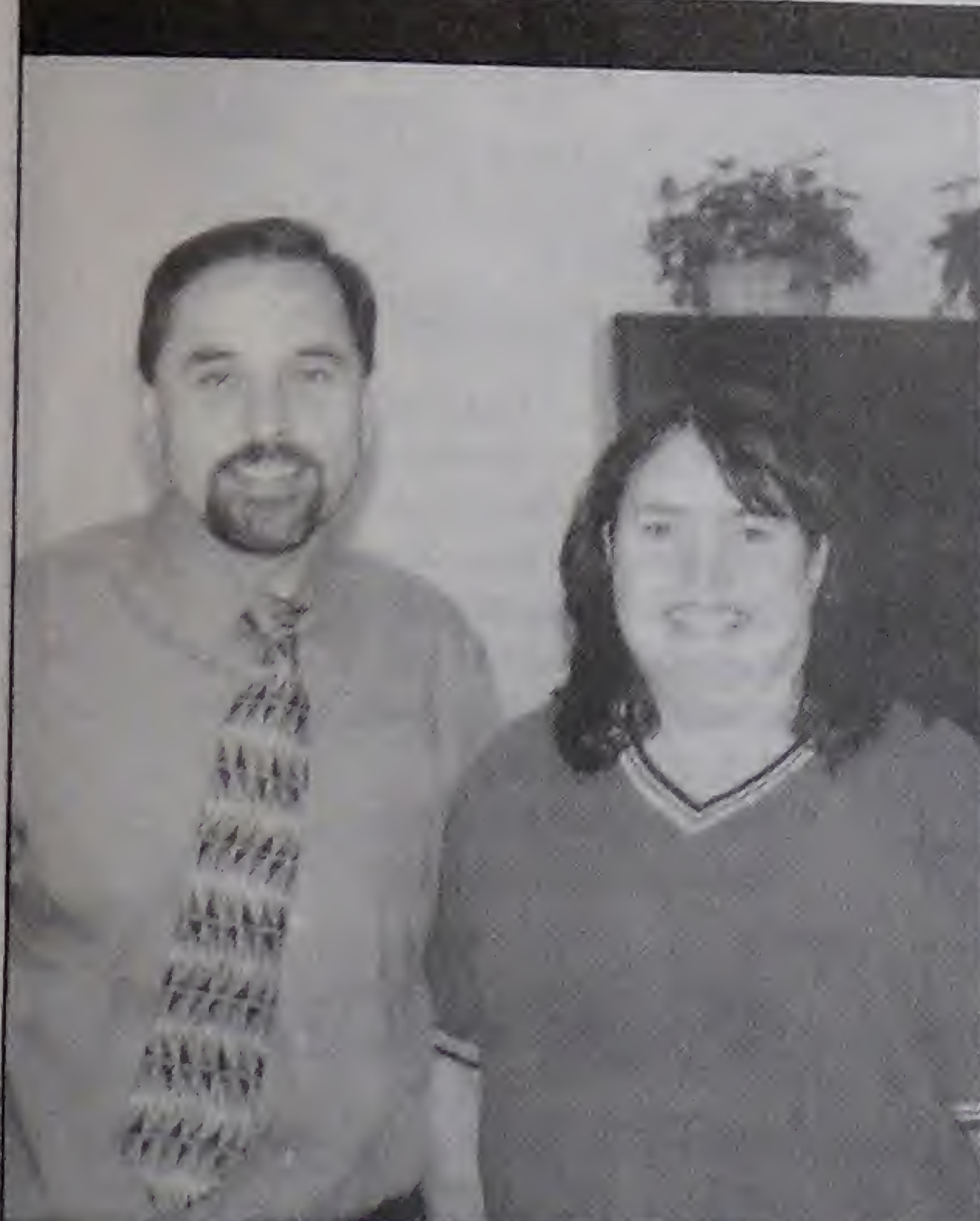


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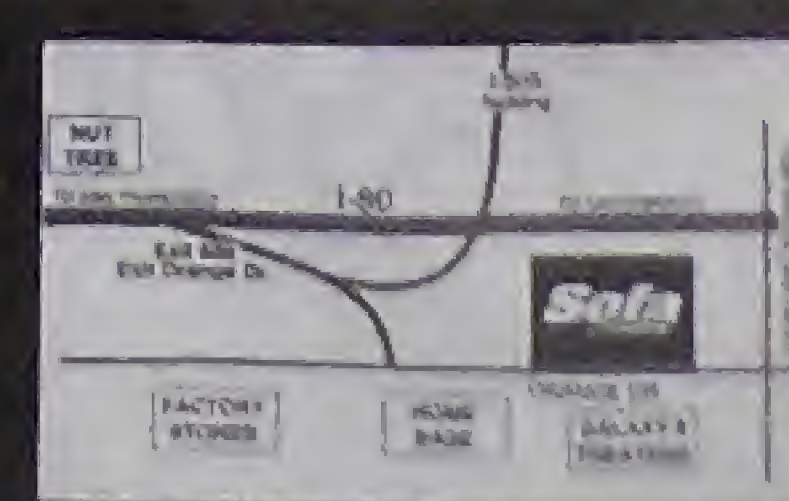
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

The House

Once scorned, house crosses welcome mat

Neighbors on Vacaville's Laramie Way took to the streets last October when they saw trucks carrying pieces of a 30-year-old house into their relatively new subdivision.

Enraged that no one bothered to tell them about the move, the residents packed meetings in City Hall, hammered city officials, wrote angry letters, and even blocked a truck carrying the second piece of "The House."

But now that the dust has settled and the project nearly finished, even the most militant of neighbors admit that the once-infamous house is looking pretty good.

"I'm very happy with it," said Steve Cremo, who lives almost directly across the street from the house.

"Nobody will ever convince anyone in the neighborhood that a lot of underhanded things were going on there. But that's all behind us now," Cremo said.

Janice Forshay-Henry, who had been one of the more outspoken neighbors during the controversy, also praised the nearly completed project.

"I haven't seen the interior of it, but from the exterior it looks

fine," she said. "It does seem to blend with the neighborhood, and that's all we wanted in the first place."

The owners of the house, Suisun City realty agents Kathryn Patterson and Udel Hyde, didn't return calls.

But city Building Official Bill Turgeon said the pair have gone out of their way to make the house almost as good as new.

"It's been completely rewired, the plumbing's completely redone, completely new mechanical system, completely new roof," said Turgeon. "The ugly duck has turned into the beautiful swan."

The controversy surrounding "The House" was certainly an ugly one.

Patterson and Hyde had gone through the usual channels at City Hall before moving the 30-year-old, one-story house into the Burton Ranch subdivision.

Unfortunately, the usual channels didn't include informing neighbors of the impending move, and when neighbors woke up one October morning to find a piece of an older house on their street, they felt betrayed.

After a series of heating public meetings, the City Council



Until repairs were complete, the addition of an older house (above) to a Laramie Way neighborhood raised the ire of many neighbors.

ultimately decided to change the rules and require a public hearing at the Planning Commission before any future houses are moved.

And after months of negotiations, name-calling and threats of lawsuits, Laramie Way residents and the owners of "The House" agreed to try to be good neighbors.

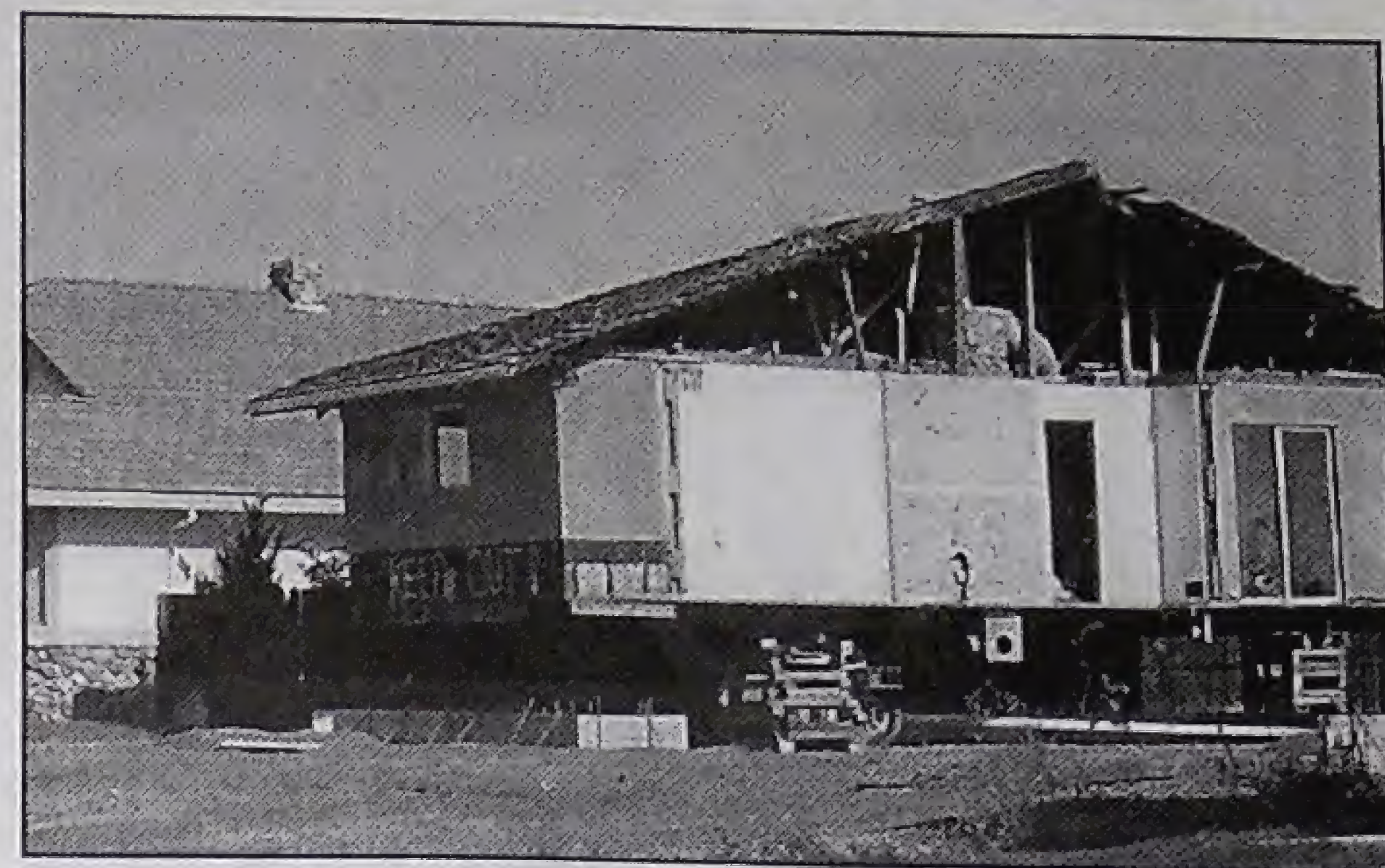
The final agreement, which was signed in April, called for the owners to meet a series of design standards in the renovations to avoid future legal action from Laramie Way neighbors or the city.

The deal also exempts the house owners from about \$8,000 in school impact fees, which are normally paid by a new-home developer.

Mike Forshay, a Laramie Way resident who led the protest against "The House," said he hopes whoever moves into the refurbished home is a good neighbor.

"If anything, this has pulled our neighborhood really together," Forshay said. "It's been positive in that aspect. It's really pulled our neighborhood close."

By Ben Patterson, Staff Writer
The Reporter, July 29, 1996



The home as it looked when it was moved to Laramie Way (above). Repairs and changes helped ease neighbor concerns.

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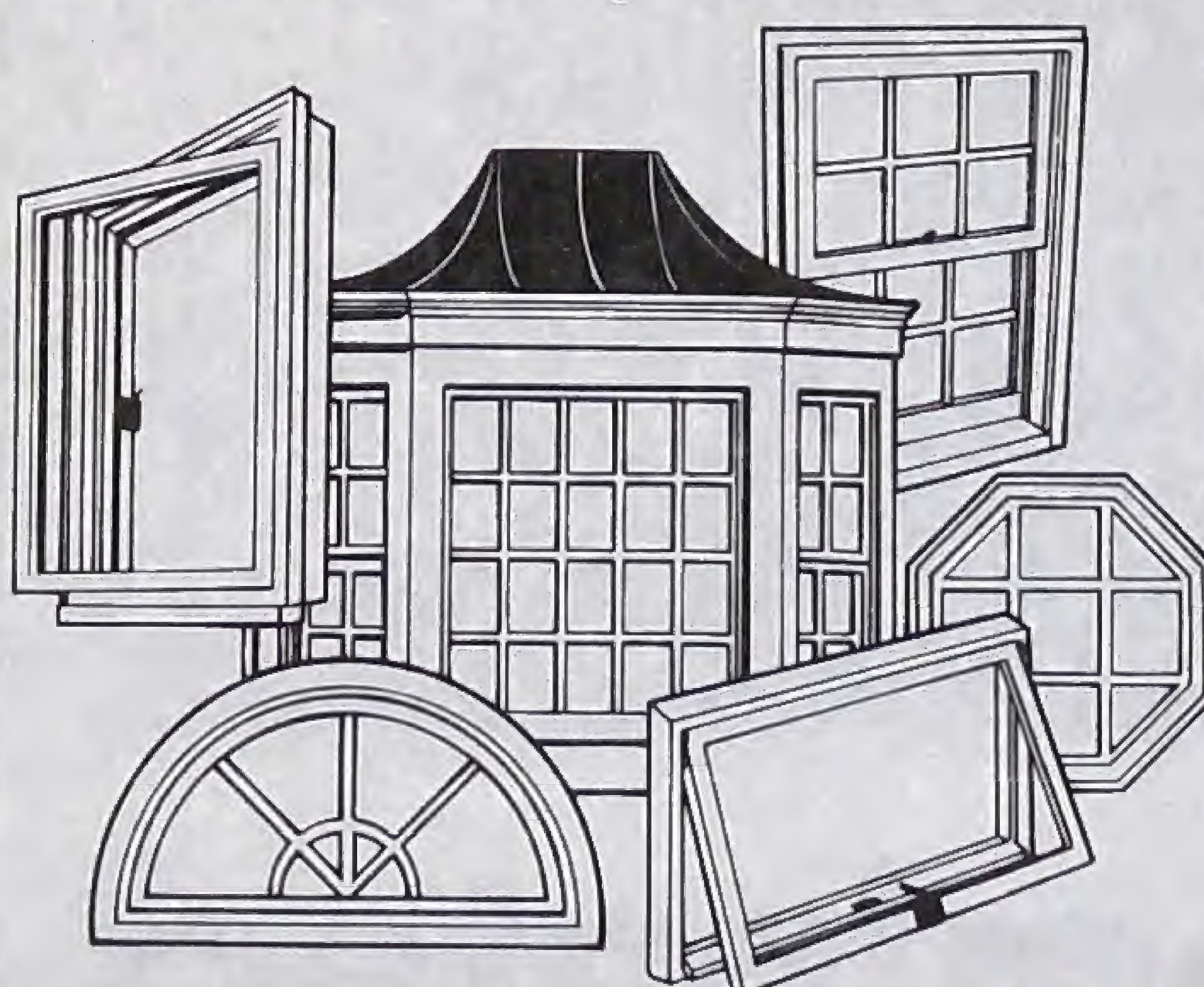
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

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The Renaissance Pleasure Faire, for 30 years a popular Elizabethan-era attraction at Black Point near Novato, was drawn to the Nut Tree facility in Vacaville when its old home was closed to the event because of development. A new home in Antioch was not ready in time for the 1999 season, and may not be ready for the 2000 season, leaving some to believe the fair may return to the Nut Tree one more year. Gay Linn Kirkpatrick (above) of Pleasant Hill, in her role as Queen Elizabeth, greets her subjects at the start of the Queen's Joust on the opening day of the 1999 season.

At right, Justin Thompson of Los Angeles (left) and Anthony Feery of San Diego engage in a bit of sword play during the Queen's Joust. The "knights" wear armor weighing up to 100 pounds and compete in several battles every weekend.

Reporter file photos



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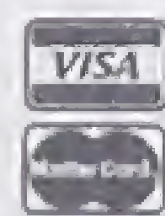
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Finding fun for the whole family

City becomes recreation hub

By Sally Miller Wyatt
Special to The Reporter

"There's nothing to do!" might have been a common complaint among young Vacavites prior to the 1990s, but by the end of the decade, "You're not looking hard enough" easily could have been the response.

If Vacavites stayed in town, they might have bowled at the Vaca Bowl, taken in a movie at the single-screen Clark Theatre on Main Street or the four-screen Vaca Valley complex on Marshall Road or checked out a book from the old library on Merchant Street. There wasn't a single big department store in town, and if you liked to ice skate you had to drive to Sacramento or Berkeley.

Today, the town boasts Mervyn's, Target and more than 100 shops at the Factory Stores. The Clark Theatre may have closed in 1990, but Vaca Valley Cinema wasn't the only theater in town for long: The Galaxy 8 complex on Orange Drive opened in 1992. Then, Brenden Theatres brought 16 screens to town in 1998, and soon Vaca Valley and Galaxy 8 were history.

The new library is now part of the Vacaville Cultural Center, which opened in 1993. Not only is the facility larger than its predecessor, it is open longer hours and its shelves are filled with hundreds more books, thanks in part to an 8-cent library tax voters passed in 1998.

The Cultural Center itself has become a beehive of activity. The theater at the Performing Arts Center is booked months in advance, and the Cultural Center's conference rooms have hosted everything from weddings to haunted houses, fashion shows and tributes to Vacaville's volunteers, the "Angels."

Plans for an entertainment complex to be built at the former Basic American Foods site were announced in 1995; three years later, the Vacaville Skating Center had opened there, and figure skaters and hockey players were jamming the ice.

Teens have their own place now, at the Brickhouse. The facility, located in the Three Oaks Community Center, opened in February 1998, as a place where teens could play air hockey or pool and listen to music.

The Vaca Bowl on Peabody Road closed in 1997 after 37 years in business but was replaced in 1998 by Stars Recreation Center on Browns Valley Parkway. The larger complex is open 24 hours a day and features 40 bowling lanes, a sports bar and grill, a coffee shop, billiard tables, electronic dart games and a video arcade.

The Chuck E. Cheese and Scandia entertainment centers in Fairfield had to make room for Q-Zar and The Wooz in the late '80s and '90s. The Wooz opened in 1988 and offered visitors a giant maze, go-carts and game rooms, but the attraction couldn't hold. After a 10-year run, the facility was closed in 1998 and put up for sale in January. Q-Zar, a popular laser tag game, made its home on Orange Drive until it closed in August. Another laser tag business — Zap City — was set to take its place in late December at a new home in the Factory Stores.

Vacaville opened a number of new parks in the 1990s, including the community-built Great Wonders playground in Andrews Park in 1993. Centennial and Arlington parks also opened, greatly increasing the number of soccer and baseball fields.



Patrons glide along a sheet of ice at the Vacaville Skating Center, one of the latest attractions at what once was the Basic American Foods food processing site.

Reporter file photo

PUTTING BASIC FOODS ON ICE

Once food processing site, now entertainment center

"It's great. We feel like we're finally getting settled in."

Ed Shipstad,
manager

The city's newest people magnet — the Vacaville Skating Center — will be raring to go next week when the first of 10 community events scheduled this year is slated to happen, said manager Ed Shipstad.

The facility has been partially open since New Year's Eve, when Solano County residents started taking laps around the Davis Street ice rink.

Shipstad expects the other ice rink will open Friday and the roller arena will be ready for a large educational program scheduled for March 19.

"That's going to happen," he promised.

Phil Velez, president of Solano Blades on Ice, said the rink's grand opening, which will include presentations by local dignitaries and a performance by a Russian professional figure-skating pair, is scheduled for April 24.

Shipstad beamed as he noted that the roller rink is no longer a storage area.

"It's great," he said. "We feel like we're finally getting settled in. It has been tough staying one step ahead of what we needed to do."

Shipstad said shoddy ice conditions on the

open rink — sections had worn through to the paint — were due to constant use which left very little time for maintenance. He said conditions will improve when both rinks are open.

The pro shop, which initially will carry only essentials like skates, hockey sticks and helmets, is also expected to open this weekend.

And the outside of the former onion dehydrating plant is basically done. The painting is completed and 99 percent of the shrubbery has been planted, Shipstad said.

"You can kind of feel the momentum," he said.

Other nonprofit community events scheduled for the roller rink next month are the Wine & Food Jubilee on April 15 and 16, the Fishing Derby fund-raiser on April 23, and the Business Expo on April 28.

Officials of the nonprofit skating center, which was assisted in development by the city's Redevelopment Agency, are required to make 15 days per year available to community events free of charge.

By Sean Gillespie, Staff Writer
The Reporter, March 10, 1999

Vaca boy hurt at skating rink

The blade of an ice skate sliced off the tip of an 8-year-old boy's left ring finger Sunday afternoon after he took a tumble on the ice at the Vacaville Skating Center.

Paramedics from the Vacaville Fire Department bandaged up the partially severed digit, which was cut about a quarter to a half an inch below the tip.

The boy, a Vacaville resident said to be attending a friend's birthday party, was treated with intravenous pain medication on the way to Vaca Valley Hospital and later released.

"We gave him a teddy bear," said firefighter Eric Wilson. "That seemed to make him feel better."

The Reporter, Jan. 18, 1999

New movie theater makes curtain call

Seldom have projects been awaited with more anticipation in Vacaville than the 16-screen complex being built for Brenden Theatres.

Theater aficionados can't help but be excited about having so many more movie options in Vacaville.

Many downtown restaurants and other businesses expect their cash registers to ring up more sales because of the hordes of moviegoers that will frequent the theater complex.

And city officials are enthused because the theater complex will bring new life to the Basic American Foods site at Davis and Mason streets.

Walter Eichinger, Brenden's director of operations, said area residents won't be disappointed when the \$15 million complex opens.

"What Vacaville is getting is the absolute latest in technology," he explained.

Key features include stadium-style seating, a sophisticated high-tech sound system and a modern snack bar designed to get customers quickly and efficiently back to their seats.

Eichinger also said moviegoers shouldn't have to worry too much about having a hard time seeing over the heads of people in seats ahead of them. In each theater, every row will be 14 inches higher than the row in front of it.

The complex will have about 3,500 seats, and individual theaters will have anywhere from 140 to 450 seats.

"The latest craze is stadium seating," Eichinger said, noting that Brenden's Vacaville complex will feature stadium-style seats with high backs, adjustable arm rests and comfy cushions.

The complex also will feature a high-tech Lucasfilm THX digital sound system.

The Vacaville theater complex is the third operated by Brenden. It plans to open an 18-screen theater in Modesto next spring.

Eichinger said Brenden opted to build a theater complex in Vacaville because it is a growing community and the site has good freeway visibility. Brenden also was convinced Vacaville was a market that would support a multi-screen, state-of-the-art theater complex.

By Mike Fitch,
Staff Writer
The Reporter,
Sept. 18, 1998

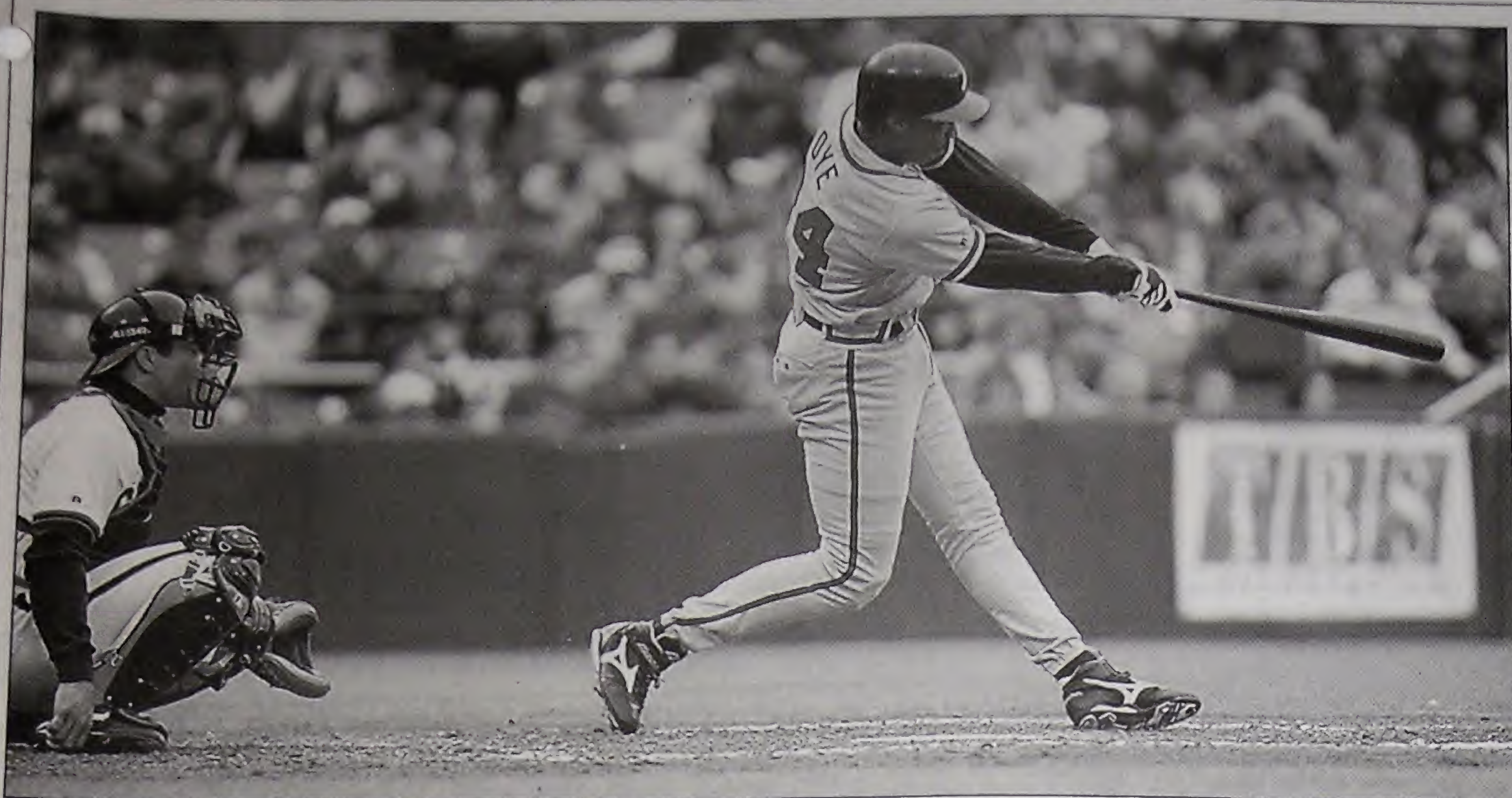


Vacaville in 1998 welcomed a 16-screen movie theater built at the old Basic American Foods complex.

Reporter file photo

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY



Vacaville's Jermaine Dye connects on a pitch in the second inning of a baseball game between the Atlanta Braves and the San Francisco Giants at 3 Com Park in July 1996. It was Dye's first appearance in the Bay Area after being called up by the Atlanta Braves. He was traded to the Kansas City Royals just before the '97 season.

Reporter file photo

Vacan takes big swing at the big leagues

Braves debut for Wood grad is simply one to Dye for

Vacaville's Jermaine Dye started his major-league career with a bang and ended the 1990s the same way. The 1992 Will C. Wood High School graduate homered in his first big-league at-bat with the Atlanta Braves on May 17, 1996, against the Cincinnati Reds.

Dye, a right fielder, batted .281 as a rookie, homered in the National League playoffs against the Dodgers and played in the World Series against the Yankees. He was fifth in the voting for National League Rookie of the Year.

He was traded to the Kansas City Royals one week before the start of the 1997 season, and was troubled by injuries in both '97 and '98. But he broke out in 1999,

hitting .294 with 27 home runs, 119 RBIs and 97 runs. He also set a team-record with 17 assists from the outfield.

Dye was rewarded after the season with a two-year contract worth a guaranteed \$6.1 million. He made \$260,000 in 1999.

The following is an excerpt of The Reporter article about Dye's first major league game.

His major-league debut with the Atlanta Braves was memorable in more ways than one. Jermaine Dye needed just two trips to the plate to experience the good and bad times of professional base-

ball.

Dye made the most of his first plate appearance in the bottom of the fifth inning against the Cincinnati Reds. The former Will C. Wood High School star became the 71st player in major-league history to hit a home run in his first at-bat.

After wondering if he would play, Dye became the star of the show with just one swing of the bat. He drilled a 1-0 fastball from Cincinnati's Marcus Moore beyond the left-field fence. The ball cleared the wall just to the right of sign commemorating Hank Aaron's 715th homer.

"I was looking for something

away and he threw something in," Dye said. "I was able to get my hands through on it. I thought I hit it pretty good. I just put my head down and ran around the bases like I always do. I was in a daze. It was like a dream."

In another historical note, Dye is the first Brave to start his career with a homer since Chuck Tanner did it on April 12, 1955, back when the Braves were playing in Milwaukee.

"The first pitch he swings at, and he goes in the record books," general manager John Schuerholz said. "We know he's got power. We know he's going to

help us."

Who knows how many of those 70 players followed the elite feat by hitting into a double play as Dye did in the seventh?

"I'm sure he would have liked to get a hit or even hit another homer, but those things happen," Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones offered. "I'll tell you right now it won't be the last time he hits into one."

Dye will forget the double play long before he forgets his first major-league homer. The moment was certainly memorable, and the 22-year-old rookie outfielder even made a curtain call as 40,612 fans responded

with a standing ovation.

"That's the first curtain call of the season," shortstop Jeff Blauser said. "That's an awfully good way to break the ice. That's something to be proud of."

Dye didn't know what to think of the ovation.

"I knew it was unusual. I didn't think the guys would force me to do it," he said. "I'm just glad my fans are behind me."

The cheers continued when Dye returned to right field in the top of the sixth inning. ...

"I don't know how the hell he did it. In my first (at-bat), I was nervous as hell," left fielder Ryan Klesko said. "I didn't get anything to hit all night."

By Cecil Conley, Sports Editor
The Reporter, May 18, 1996

Tears, cheers, 'Dog Call' mark last game for Mr. Z

Tom Zunino choked back tears and told his team, "Keep the family together. Sometimes a father gets old and needs a little help."

With that he called for one final "Dog Call" and the run was over. Thirty-eight years, 215 victories, countless hours of film study.

"I'm standing beside two people that have supported me for 38 years," he said with daughter Karen on one arm and wife Bernie on the other. "Hopefully I can stay 38 more and support them."

The final postscript didn't work out on the field for the Bulldogs. The offense sputtered in the 27-13 loss to Will C. Wood at

Harold Youngblood Stadium.

Regardless, it was a bon voyage party on the visiting sideline for Zunino. Alumni and players were in abundance.

Banners lined the visiting sideline with farewell messages. One said simply "Good bye Z" with the image of a teary-eyed Bulldog.

"It's been wonderful," Bernie Zunino said. "We have a lot of memories and family. It's been great."

Former Vacaville quarterback Bob Biggs, now the head coach at the University of California, Davis, made an appearance at the stadium for the first time in years. He joked with Zunino about an offer to come up and do

a little coaching.

There was a long procession of hugs and kisses after the game. Wood head coach Tim Galli grabbed Zunino by the face, smiled and gave him a big hug.

Vacaville broke out new "Z" decals that the players wore on one side of their helmets, thanks to assistant coach Mike Papadopolous, Zunino's son-in-law. ...

Zunino did well to get out all his final words of goodbye to the team. He broke down when he caught sight of Mark Zunino. His son, a Hollywood fashion designer, flew in from Los Angeles to surprise his father.

In a ruse, the family told Zunino that his granddaughter Jessica



Tom Zunino
... coached 38 years

was walking. Mark came out of the bedroom carrying the baby.

"I know how much this school means to him," said Mark Zunino. "It's always been a part of our lives."

"I worked with a legend," assistant coach Fred Jones said.

By Matt Miller, Sports Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 15, 1997

Milestones near for Vanden coach

The joke around Vanden High School is that Jim Boyd has put well over 300,000 miles on the buses in the Travis Unified School District.

Nobody can document the milestone. Still, it stands to reason with Boyd on board for all 33 seasons of Viking basketball.

The easy statistic to chronicle is victories, and Boyd has plenty many.

Boyd sits one win away from a very select group of coaches in California. When Vanden earns its next victory ... he will have 600.

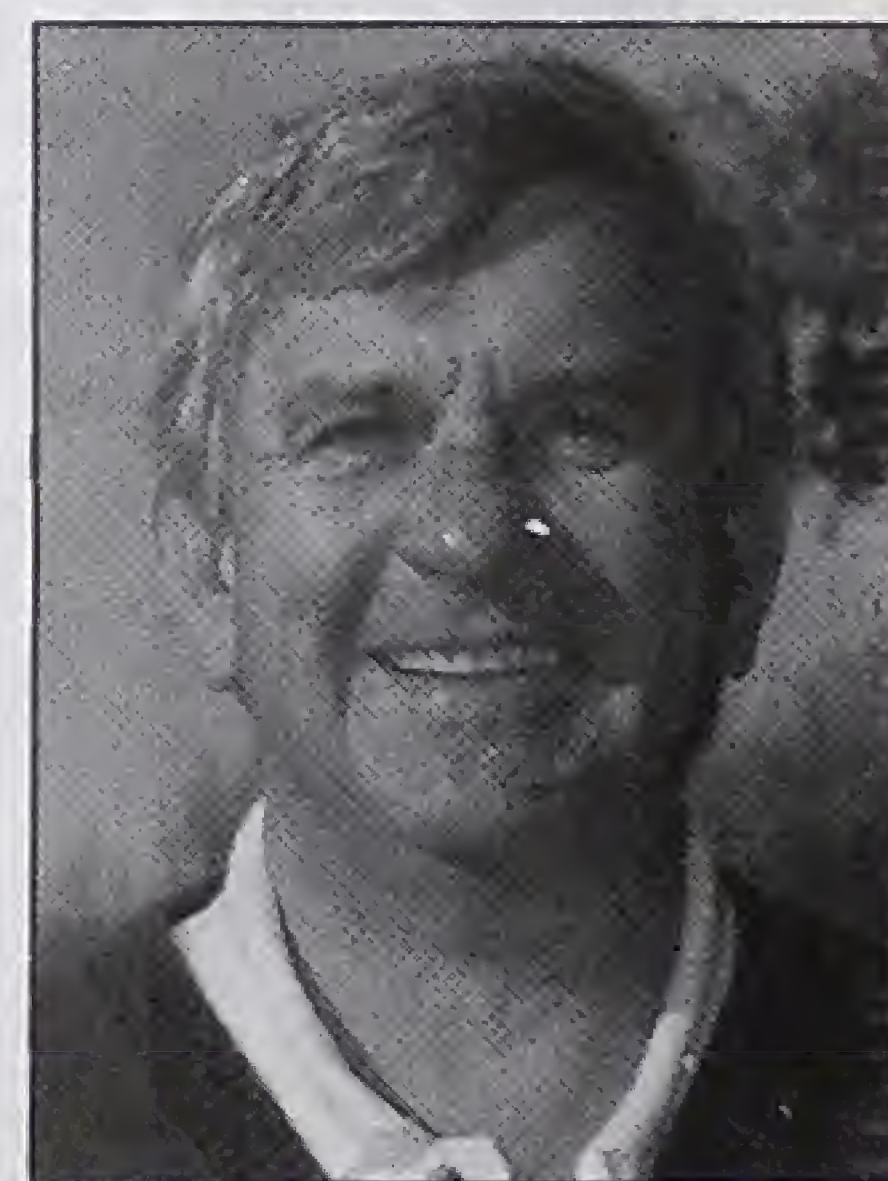
With the Vikings off to an 12-3 start this season, Boyd's record stands at 599-259. Almost as impressive as the win total is the .698 winning percentage.

According to Cal-Hi Sports, the publication that tracks state high school records, Boyd will become the sixth boys basketball coach to reach the 600 plateau while coaching exclusively in California. ...

"I can't help but think how nice it will be to be among that level of coaches," Boyd said. "When my name comes out in Cal-Hi it will be something nice to give my grandchildren. A lot of nice men have come through this school and share the 600."

The club will be pared down to three including Boyd when considering those who have coached at only one school. Ironically, it was Cvijanovich who beat Boyd in 1990 and denied him a chance at a second state championship. Vanden won it all in 1986.

Other numbers of note abound. Boyd has captured seven Sac-Joaquin Section titles. His



Jim Boyd
... nearing 600 wins

Vikings have won 174 of 210 games in the '90s. And Boyd has had only one losing season (11-13 in 1987) in the last 22 years.

"I think we have more section wins than anybody," Boyd said, "but we also have more section losses. It's great just to get there. Winning the league has always been the best thing for the school to do ... but that doesn't mean we want to downplay the postseason."

Boyd has already retired from the Travis Unified School District as a teacher, and stepped down last year as athletic director. This is his last season as head coach.

Boyd says he's not looking for any major production. He also doesn't think he'll get overly emotional.

"It will be something I'll enjoy," he said. "Like anything it will become bigger in my mind later on in life than when it actually happens."

By Matt Miller, Sports Writer
The Reporter, Jan. 14, 1997

'Institution' throws in the towel, retires

True to form, Larry Nelson didn't have much to say. True to his record, the Vacaville High School wrestling coach didn't have to.

Nelson's letter of resignation was accepted at a special meeting of the Vacaville Unified School District Governing Board. His last day as a teacher will be Friday, although he will finish coaching the 1993-94 wrestling season.

Nelson's final season of a legendary coaching career began 34 years ago when he started the school's program.

"I'm an old person," said Nelson, who has a 519-76 record. "Like any old person who's 65, I'm retiring. That's what you do."

"But I'm not dead and buried yet."

The news of Nelson's resignation caught Steve Hilas Sr. by surprise. Hilas, who wrestled for Nelson in the late 1960s, saw his son, Steve Jr., win a California Interscholastic Federation state title under his former coach



Nelson

in 1992. "When you mention wrestling in the state of California, people know about Vacaville," Hilas said.

"When you mention wrestling in Vacaville, people know Larry. He's an institution. He's a special person. Nelson has produced two state champions — Hilas in 1992 and Al Re in 1987. His records are simply straight times — the extent of the league's history. They have only had to share the title three times, once in 1992 when rival Will C. Wood won the MEL tournament after Vacaville took the dual-meet title.

in 1992.

"When you mention wrestling in the state of California, people know about Vacaville," Hilas said. "When you mention wrestling in Vacaville, people know Larry. He's an institution. He's a special person. Nelson has produced two state champions — Hilas in 1992 and Al Re in 1987. His records are simply straight times — the extent of the league's history. They have only had to share the title three times, once in 1992 when rival Will C. Wood won the MEL tournament after Vacaville took the dual-meet title.

Vacaville has also won Sac-Joaquin Section titles under Nelson in 1972, '85, '86, '87, '88 and '91.

"He's a great coach," said Wood coach Thor Jensen. "He has done so much for the sport of wrestling here in Vacaville. He has established a great program with a lot of hard work and dedication over the years. He will be missed by many."

Bill Hausler, Vacaville's statistician and wrestling expert since 1979, wasn't surprised by Nelson's decision. Hausler also serves on the governing board.

"I knew he had been thinking about it for some time," Hausler said. "He will be missed. I have so much respect for Larry. He has given so much to Vacaville and all the youngsters he has worked with over the years."

By Ron Jackson and
Todd Shurtleff, Sports Writers
The Reporter, Dec. 30, 1993

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Vacaville unveils cultural center after long battle

As the curtain rose on the new Vacaville Cultural Center Friday, it closed on five years of controversy that saw the death of a library, the birth of political careers and, ultimately, a city torn by boundaries, personalities and its own inexperience.

Critics who tried to repeal the voter-approved tax that paid for it all are now silent, some even praise the state-of-the-art center. But without exception, they remain convinced that Vacaville paid too huge a price.

"People didn't know what they were voting for," said Vacaville resident Jackie Burton, who worked to overturn the initiative known as Measure I. "It wasn't made evident that they would close one library to open another."

It has been almost five years since a slim majority of residents voted to tax themselves for the betterment of the community. While they approved a general tax, everyone knew where the money would go: to improve streets, build ballparks and create the Cultural Center, a trio of buildings south of Interstate 80.

What critics said wasn't known was that in the process, the city would lose a small, old library on Vacaville's north side....

It's been called the soul of the city. The Cultural Center complex. A performing arts theater, new community center and 25,000-square-foot library. But part of the agreement between the city and library district was

that the old library would be sold to the city to help defray costs of building the new one. It was the component that started the controversy....

It was an ugly period in Vacaville's recent history, both sides agree. But today, those who opposed the 25-year tax, which will raise \$52.8 million by assessing homeowners \$60 a year and businesses \$15 to \$600 a year, say they would do it again in a heartbeat.

"I have no regrets, other than I wish we would have prevailed," said Michele Schlick-Harris, who worked with Vasquez. "I did what I could, but I have no ill feelings...."

Detractors still take issue with the way the tax was ultimately presented. In an effort to circumvent Proposition 13, which requires two-thirds voter approval for a specific tax increase, the city placed it on the ballot as a general tax, with a promise of where money would be spent. A general tax requires majority support to pass, and Measure I squeaked by with 52 percent.

The irony, City Manager John Thompson said, was that councilmembers placed the issue before voters despite legal opinions that said they were empowered to pass the tax without going to the polls.

It's clear that while the controversy has subsided, fundamental differences remain. No one is forgiving, just forgetting.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, April 3, 1993



"Hell House" players depict Satan in one of the scenes. The content of some of the scenes drew sharp criticism.

Reporter file photo

'Hell House' production draws throng

Whether it was the promise of garish sights and sounds, the controversial message intended, or heightened media attention, the "Hell House" presentation in Vacaville has been drawing hundreds of curious spectators each night.

In fact, Harvest Church staff had to turn away hundreds to the production on Wednesday, selling out by 7:30 p.m. And just to accommodate those who were admitted, the cast had to continue the drama nearly two hours after the scheduled 10 p.m. cutoff.

The four-day showing ... brought just as many people on Thursday, with the line continuously at 200 to 300 people.

On the onset, some weren't sure what to expect and didn't know if the brazen attempt would make any difference. "In this day and age, I think it's hard to shock people with TV and entertainment," said Fairfield resident Harrison Dolce, 34. "But I expect it will be shocking, and for some people it may change their view-

point."

"We are portraying some real issues that are really hot topics that are on the edge of our youth culture," Pastor Scott Brooks had said.

The 30-minute production consists of five scenes, including a teenager who shoots himself in the head, and a drunken man crying for help next to the mangled bodies of his dead wife and son in the wreckage of a car.

Perhaps more controversial is the mock funeral for a gay man dead of AIDS, and a simulated abortion, in which a young female lies screaming on a hospital bed, surrounded by bloody towels, forceps and other medical instruments.

The scenes made some hold their hands over their eyes; a pregnant woman turned against the abortion scene as she held her stomach.

But of the 40 people from two groups approached after the event, not one stepped forward to express disapproval. "This is real life and good for the kids to

see," said Yolanda Rivera, who brought along her three children, ages 12, 13 and 14.

"They're growing and making decisions and you really have to be careful."

There has been an average of two or three protesters at each night's showing, a lackluster display compared with other cities that have had dozens show each night.

"This is Vacaville, full of churches. What do you expect?" said Grey Blavin, one of two women who disapproved of the event with signs propped on their car that read: "Hate = Ignorance; and Bigots Use God To Justify Their Oppression Of Others."

"Just take one of the scenes," Blavin said. "AIDS is being shown as a gay disease, and it is not ... And even if they think homosexuality is wrong, isn't there a better way to teach that than a dead person in a casket with AIDS?"

By Roxanne Stites, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Oct. 31, 1997

STONE'S COUNTRY TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE



Left to Right: Marshall, Sheri, Brian, Ron, Tom, Randy, Jimmy & James

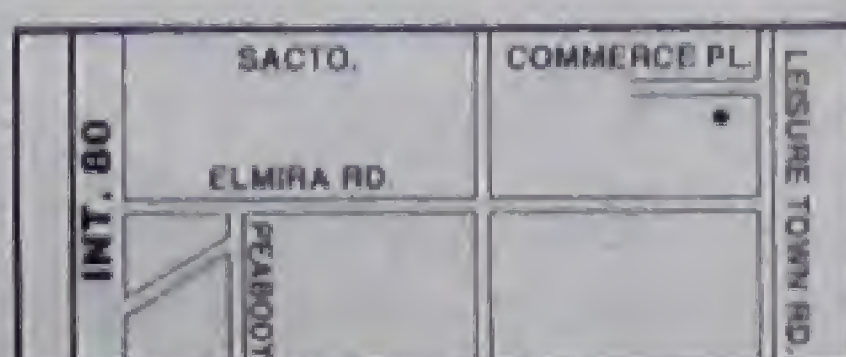
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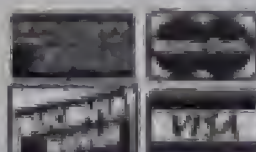
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Volunteers' work destroyed in one spectacular blaze

Someone said they didn't know which was harder to watch, the flames destroying Vacaville's Great Wonders Playground or the vacant, unbelieving stares on the faces of volunteers who rushed Monday night to the scene.

The playground that the community built, the playground that was dedicated Saturday, the playground that was 18 months in the planning and garnered \$120,000 in what was titled the Help Build a Dream fund-raising campaign is ruined.

"I was just thinking about the dedication on Saturday and volunteers were showing their kids what they built," said John Eckles, one of the play park's original coordinators.

Fire Chief Pete Marino said late Monday he was considering it a suspicious fire. Most who watched the blaze, faces covered by their hands, speculated it was caused by an arsonist. An arson team was investigating at midnight.

Mayor David Fleming said he will ask the City Council to use city reserves to rebuild the park.

"It isn't just a question of price," he said Monday from the scene. "In this case, it's a question of the psychic health of a community."

Sirens broke Monday night's silence at 9:32 p.m. and it sounded as if downtown Vacaville was on fire. Initial reports of the playground burning in Andrews Park were too bizarre to believe. Several people said

they thought it was a joke.

Those first on the scene saw what looked like a giant bonfire. Flames had shot up the towers surrounding the park, reached the trees, and blown south into Ulatis Creek. They were fanned by high winds, which exasperated firefighters.

"It's wood chips, it's windy, it's fairly warm," said police officer John Kegerris. "It could be accidental. It could be arson."

Witnesses who ran the short distance from downtown or the Georgie Duke Sports Center next door said they heard no explosion, saw no one running from the flames. But they said the entire playground was engulfed at once.

From a distance, it looked like the whole hill was on fire and crews fanned out, crossed the creek, tried desperately to stop flames before they reached buildings along East Main Street. There, they succeeded. But they were too late to save the playground.

"I worked on it, so if one stick burns I feel bad," said Marino.

Construction on the playground began Oct. 20. About 300 people showed up the first day. Crowds grew to 600 during the weekend. By Sunday, children were playing on what was easily Vacaville's most fantastic community event in years.

In five days, the dream was built, and so was a sense of community. Volunteers compared it to barn raising.

Monday it was a barn burning.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 2, 1993



A Vacaville firefighter douses the flames that destroyed the volunteer-built Great Wonders Playground in Andrews Park in 1993. Reporter file photo

Razed playground rebuilt in five days

If you've been gone for the past month, it might seem like Vacaville's Great Wonders Playground never skipped a beat.

If you were here for the stunning arson fire that razed the 5-day-old volunteer-built work of art Nov. 1, it might seem like that was all a bad dream.

Call it rebuilt or rebound — the park is back.

It opened Sunday evening under towering new floodlights at Andrews Park. And it's better than before.

"It's bigger and better and we have so many experienced volunteers, we're able to do it faster and with more detail," said Barbara Smith one of the project's assistant coordinators.

Back is the extensive raised labyrinth of southern pine and its trademark green-

topped turrets. It's a network riddled with nooks and fairy-tale attractions like a pirate ship and a locomotive.

But this time there are unique touches that volunteers say set Vacaville's playground apart from those in nearby cities that gave parents the inspiration for this one.

This time there are wood-framed port-holes and windows cut into the wood towers. The raised wooden bridges are finished with lattice. The swing sets are dressed on top with green beams stenciled with birds on the wing.

This time beams on the bridges are painted in green or stenciled with animals, like one decorated with a string of horses moving from a walk into a gallop.

And there are sculptures of trees and the

animals that live in them, made of wood cutouts that have been hand-painted.

About 300 people turned out Sunday for the last of five straight days of construction, many wearing red sweatshirts identifying them as organizers, or cheery red Santa Claus stocking hats.

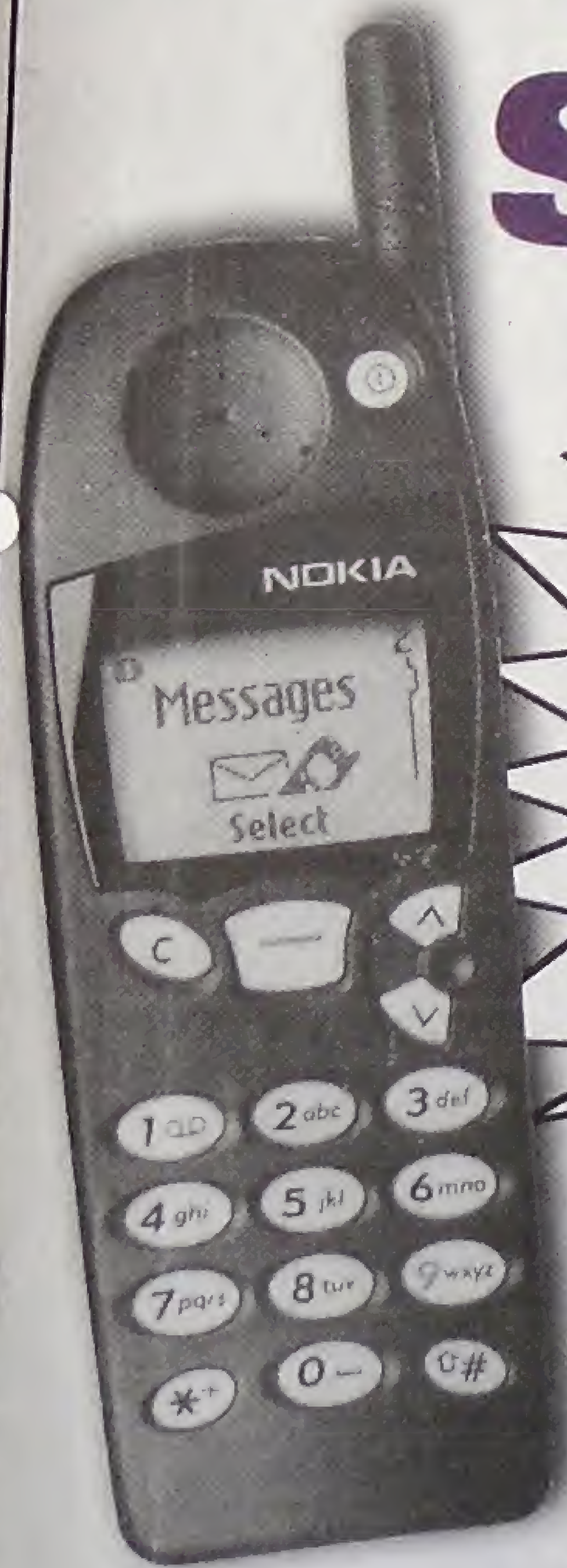
A good number of them, like 20-year-old Katy Warney, had worked on the five-day construction of the original playground.

"I wouldn't miss it for anything. I'm going to bring my kids out here when I have kids and tell them I helped build it," said Warney, who works as a recreation leader for the city.

"The last time, I started crying when I drove by and saw it," she said.

By Jean Lamming, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Dec. 6, 1993

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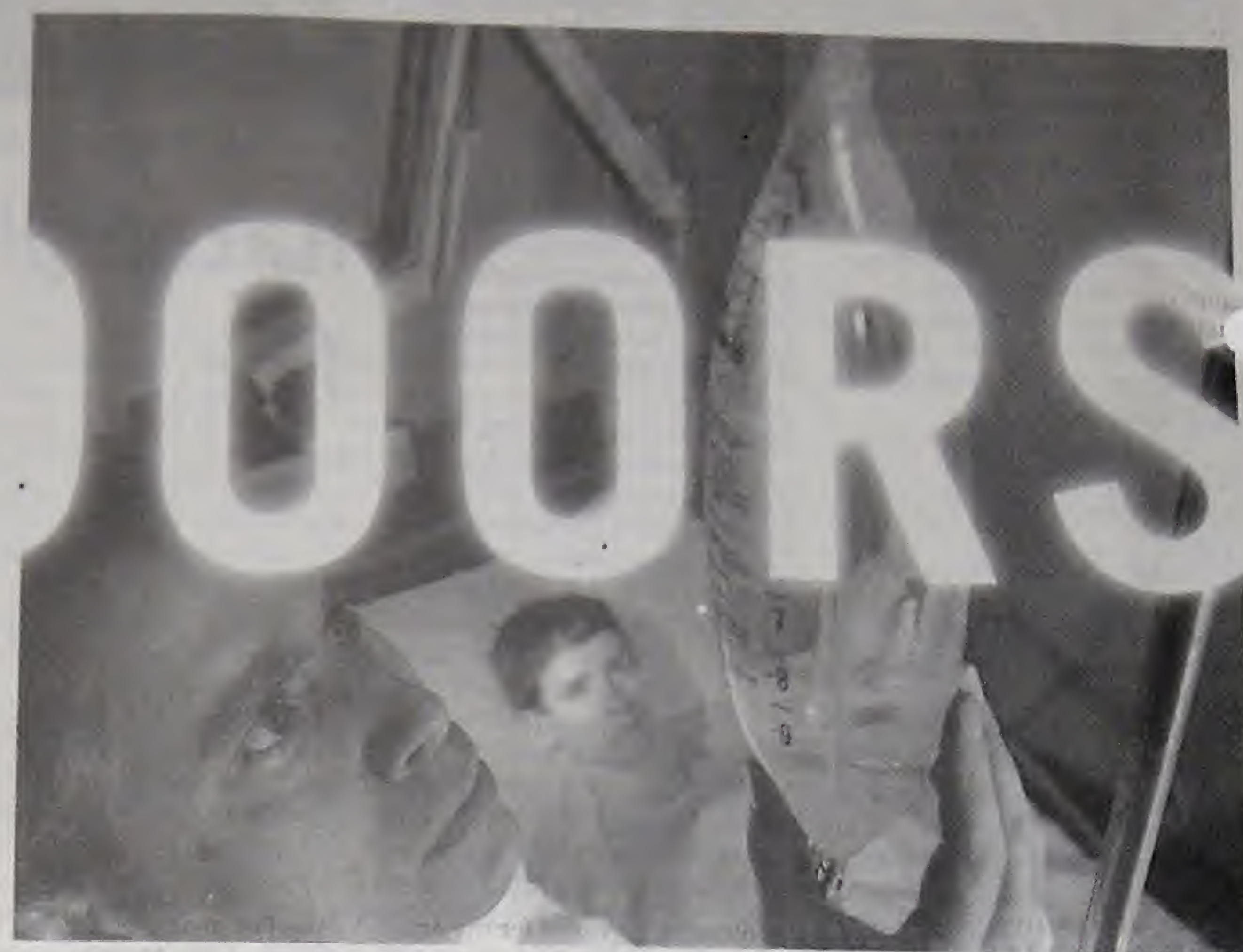
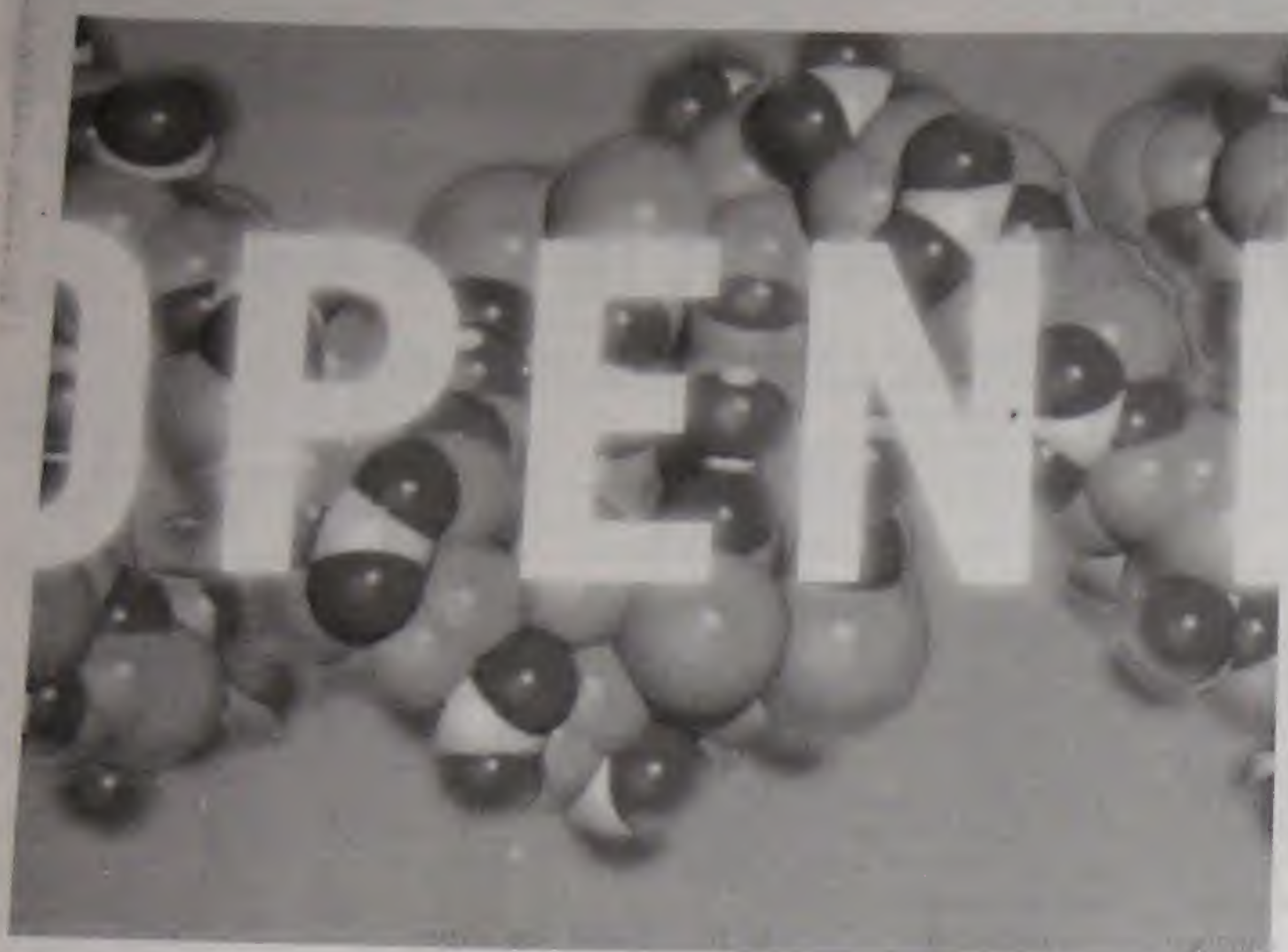
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY — IN LAGOON VALLEY

Re-enactors stage battle in Vacaville

Cannons boomed and sabers clashed as men on foot and horseback from Confederate and Union forces re-enacted a Civil War skirmish known as Ashby Gap during the weekend.

But this time, the battlefield was in Vacaville's Lagoon Valley Park and was repeated a couple of times Saturday and Sunday to allow each side a turn to win.

The real thing was in 1863, just prior to the battle of Gettysburg. Gen. Lee's army was on one side of a mountain ridge and the federal troops on the other.

When the union leaders got curious and attempted to probe passes in the ridge, called "gaps," both sides tangled.

"It was one in 10,000 skirmishes of the Civil War, not counting major battles," said Mike Foster, president of the 2,000-member California's National Civil War Association.

He narrated the evolving battle scene to hundreds of bleacher-sitting spectators.

Betsy Ontas of Vallejo had completed cooking breakfast of fried bacon, toast and coffee for 16 confederate troops.

She said her role was to be an octoroon slave, a person that was 1/8th black during the war era.

"My owner is a lieutenant with the 9th Virginia Cavalry," said Ontas.

She described the re-enactment as not a glorification of war but as a living memorial tribute.



Reporter file photo

Smoke billows from Union Army artillery during a Civil War battle re-enacted in November 1999 at Lagoon Valley Park south of Vacaville.

Capt. David Partak of the 14th Tennessee said he has participated in such re-enactments for 22 years.

"I come out for the history and the camaraderie," he said.

The spread of tent encampments, the troops and other people in period clothes, caught the attention of Brian Hamilton, 8, and his brother, Chris, 12, of Vacaville.

"It's cool," said Brian Hamilton.

Erin Cerles, 16, of Sacramento, was elegantly dressed for the era. She has participated in re-enact-

ment activity since she was 3.

Sherral Skinner of Oroville said at certain points of the war, it was not unusual for people to get dressed up and "go out for picnics and watch the battle."

Prior to the Lagoon Valley version of Ashby Gap, a union sergeant reminded his troops to march with a 28-inch stride.

The green-uniformed (Hiram) Berdan sharpshooters, forerunners of the American military's Special Forces, also prepared for the battle as part of the Army of the Potomac.

Custer's 7th Michigan was

represented as well.

They engaged the 9th Virginia cavalry and North Carolina sharpshooters until infantry on each side engaged.

"The cavalry considered themselves knights on horseback," said Foster. "Honor was very important then."

Peter Bishop, a union cannoneer, said his 10-pound shot rifle cannon had good range up to 1,800 yards.

Loud federal cannon fire answered, forcing spectators to cup their ears for protection.

Rebel yells, drummers func-

tioning like a communicating "radioman" of the day, sounds of cap and ball pistol fire and single-shot muzzle loading rifles, also punctuated the battle. In all, according to Foster, about 400 re-enactors participated during the weekend.

"It's important to me to see that history is not forgotten," said Foster.

"They were all Americans," he said. "Ages of those who served ranged from 10 to 60. The Civil War affected every family."

By Don Harness, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 23, 1997

"They were all Americans. Ages of those who served ranged from 10 to 60. The Civil War affected every family."

Mike Foster,
California's National Civil War Association president

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W. Boyd Sheldon, founder of the Sheldon companies, is seated 4th from the left, in the center of the picture. This photo was taken in 1941 at the Ryde Hotel, Walnut Grove, the traditional site of the Sheldon Christmas party.

Christmas Present



From left to right, top to bottom

Arron, John H., Dave, John O., Gene, Vernon, Mike P., Victor, Dan, John N., Mike S., Jeff, Jo Ann, Millie, Leticia, Jack, Ann, Jill, Joan, Janet, Jose, Clara and Pete not shown



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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Vaca woman's killer heads to state death row

A Solano County judge affirmed the death penalty for a man convicted earlier this year of raping, sodomizing and murdering a Vacaville woman in 1995.

Robert Allen Bacon, 36, will head to California State Prison, San Quentin sometime in the next 10 days, where he will begin his wait on death row.

Solano County Superior Court Judge R. Michael Smith ruled a jury's recommendation of death for Bacon was "appropriate." He remarked on the callousness of the crime and Bacon's "complete lack of remorse" for the killing.

The death sentence for Bacon marked the first such punishment handed down by a Solano County judge and jury in 15 years.

Prosecutors say Bacon killed Deborah Lynn Sammons at the behest of her husband, Charles, by hiding in her master bedroom and then raping, sodomizing and stabbing her to death when she entered the room.

Charles Sammons is also charged with murder. ... Prosecutors claim he and Bacon disposed of the woman's body by placing it in the trunk of her car and then partially submerging the vehicle in the waters surrounding Grizzly Island.

Friends and relatives of Deborah Sammons sat calmly in the front row of seats behind

Deputy District Attorney Chris Pedersen in Smith's courtroom. Before Smith affirmed the jury's death sentence, Pedersen read aloud a letter written by the victim's family and friends.

"Debbie left prints on everyone," Pedersen read. "When we close our eyes at night, we still see this horrible crime. You (Bacon) will be put to death in such a humane way. Debbie was not so lucky."

Bacon, dressed in navy blue jail garb, his arms covered in tattoos, looked straight ahead during the hearing, with no expression on his face. ...

"I do want to address the absence of remorse in Mr. Bacon," said Robert Fracchia, one of Bacon's attorneys. "Since early childhood, he has had all emotion beaten out of him. He is someone who had no control (over his circumstances)." ...

The defense lawyers also requested Bacon be allowed to serve life in prison without the possibility of parole rather than be sentenced to death.

But Smith, before affirming the death sentence, described the crime and how Bacon was lying in wait to attack Deborah Sammons, and he cited the fact Bacon has a prior murder conviction. Both reasons, he said, warrant the death penalty for Bacon. ...

By Elizabeth Zach, Staff Writer
The Reporter, May 21, 1999

No-contest plea given for woman's murder

Editor's note: Charles Sammons was to be sentenced on Dec. 14, 1999, for his role in the death of his wife. That sentencing was postponed until Jan. 12, 2000.

Charles Sammons avoided a trial for the 1995 killing of his wife, Deborah Lynn Sammons, by pleading no contest to her murder in the first degree.

The plea was entered on what was scheduled to be the first day of Sammons' trial.

In exchange for Sammons' plea, the prosecution dropped an enhancement charge of lying in wait that would have put Sammons, 48, in prison for life without parole if convicted. Instead, state law prescribes that he be sent to prison for at least 25 years, technically being eligible for parole after that.

Sammons' accomplice, Robert Allen Bacon, was convicted in February of raping and then stabbing Deborah Sammons to death on Oct. 26, 1995. Bacon's conviction and

subsequent death sentence was based in large part on the testimony of Sammons, who said he and Bacon dumped Deborah Sammons' body into Montezuma Slough. ...

"I think he should have gotten the death penalty like the other one," said Deborah Sammons' sister, Kay Profit of Fairfield.

"I'm glad he's going to prison, but it still doesn't bring her back," said another sister, Brenda Loeser of Woodland. ...

The sisters had high praise for Deputy District Attorney Chris Pedersen, saying he did a "beautiful" job and was honest with them about every aspect of the case. ...

"I think it was substantial justice when Mr. Bacon got the death penalty, and I think having Mr. Sammons do 25 years to life is substantial justice as well," Pedersen said. ...

By Sean Gillespie, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Oct. 22, 1999

Vacaville's Decade of Crime



A Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department team searches for a kidnapped girl. She was found, bound by duct tape, in a field.

Reporter file photo

Infamous, unusual lawlessness mark '90s for city

By Robin Miller
City Editor

No decade has been without its share of infamous crimes, but the 1990s brought an assortment of misdeeds that shook Vacaville's sense of security and drew the community into legal debates.

A half-dozen cases grabbed the majority of headlines: A still-unresolved explosion that leveled a bank. A dispute over drug money that triggered a couple's execution — and the death of a teenager who allegedly witnessed the killing. The slayings of an elderly rural couple by a teenager who wanted their car. An HIV-infected inmate's escape from the California Medical Facility. The jury that said it wasn't murder but legitimate fear that led a Vacan to shoot a man who tried to confront him about an earlier, accidental killing. A husband who hired a killer to rid himself of his estranged wife.

There were other outrages as well.

The decade was still new in October 1990 when 16-year-old Vacaville resident Gary Dean Lewis was beaten with a carpenter's hammer and left to die on a rural road outside Suisun City.

His attacker, Gregory Coglianese, 20, of Rio Vista was arrested a day later. Investigators said he beat Lewis in an apparent jealous rage over the victim's former involvement with Coglianese's girlfriend at the time. Coglianese pleaded no contest to second-degree murder in 1991 and was sentenced to serve 16 years to life in prison.

In November 1990, the community was stunned when a 7-year-old girl disappeared, triggering a search that ended when she was found 21 hours later by a pheasant hunter out walking with a friend's dog. The girl had been bound with duct tape, raped and left in a field. One of her neighbors, 20-year-old Travis Casebolt, was convicted of kidnapping and molestation in 1991 and was sentenced to 33 years in prison.

Another girl, 13-year-old Maricela Zuniga, was the victim in 1994. Her badly

decomposing body was found in a Vacaville apartment late that July, and investigators determined she had been raped and stabbed with pieces of broken glass.

Steven Bryant Shellmon, 23, and Lalo Flores, 16, were ultimately convicted in connection with her death. In 1995, Shellmon was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, while Flores was ordered confined in the Youth Authority until age 25.

The age of the suspect stunned the community in 1993, when 16-year-old Daniel Rusk was arrested in connection with the stabbing death of an elderly Allendale couple. During his trial, prosecutors maintained that Rusk killed Kenneth and Marjorie Stotz for their vehicle so he could drive to Reno to see his father and friends.

Rusk was convicted in January 1995 and sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison without the possibility of parole.

It also was in 1993 when Vacaville saw one of its most brazen robberies ever.

In September that year, three suspects kidnapped a woman at gunpoint in Fairfield, forced her into the trunk of her car and drove to Vacaville, where they held up Wal-Mart's gun department and made off with numerous handguns.

Vallejo residents Michael Brian Pendergast, 19, and Benny Joe Benavente, ultimately were convicted and sentenced to life in prison. The third suspect never has been identified.

The issue of domestic violence came to the forefront all too frequently during the decade, as a result of deadly attacks.

In May 1992, Vacaville resident Paul Estrada was arrested after the body of his estranged wife was found strangled to death in her home. Michelle Estrada repeatedly had tried to stop her ex-husband from harassing her and had obtained several restraining orders, which Estrada violated repeatedly.

The death shocked battered women's advocates who called for more enforcement efforts. Paul Estrada was sentenced

to life in prison.

Another domestic dispute turned deadly in July 1996, when a former Pentagon officer armed himself with high-powered weapons, killed his estranged wife, fired at police and then turned a gun on himself.

Air Force Maj. Lloyd Keith Moody, 44, fired a barrage at his 46-year-old estranged wife, Linda, when she tried to flee by running from their south Vacaville home.

The couple's two teenage sons managed to escape.

Court documents showed that Linda Moody had filed for divorce one week before she was killed and had asked for a restraining order the day she was gunned down.

The legal issue of "provocative act theory" was being debated by decade's end as a result of two fatal street fights.

In November 1977, Jeremiah English, 17, died of stab wounds inflicted during a fight with a group of teens near Jean Callison Elementary School. Investigators said the teenager who wielded the knife was acting in self-defense, so they did not charge him with English's death.

However, two of English's friends, David Moreno and Justin Pacheco, were charged with murder by prosecutors who said they provoked the fight that ultimately led to English's death.

The two were convicted of second-degree murder in 1999, but Judge Luis Villarreal overturned the conviction after some jurors claimed they were coerced into their decision. The pair will be retried in January.

A similar case resulted after Darren Siebert, 25, was stomped to death as he was walking home along Bel Air Drive.

Ronald Rath, 22, David Neitz, 23, Martin Schwind, 22, and Matthew Bongard, 19, were charged with the crime. Their trial this year ended with second-degree murder convictions and divided community opinions about whether the primary attacker should be held solely responsible.

Tearful jury frees man with stunning verdict

A tearful Solano County jury delivered a not-guilty verdict in the murder trial of Aaron Davis, and reaction was swift and passionate.

News of the acquittal had barely left the lips of the courtroom clerk when shooting victim Michael "Sonny" Schairer's family and friends screamed out in stunned anger and disbelief.

"Let's see how many other people die!" shouted Schairer's mother, Patricia. "My son is dead!"

"Murderer!" shouted Schairer's sister.

Davis, a 24-year-old Vacaville man, was cleared of all charges stemming from the July 19th shooting. After more than three months in jail and seven days of trial, he was set free and whisked away to an unknown location.

His north Vacaville neighborhood had focused on the outcome of the verdict as tensions

over the controversial case continued. Police sent officers to guard Davis' home following the verdict out of fear of reprisals — not only for Schairer's killing but also for an earlier killing Davis committed in May.

In that incident, Vacaville teen Jesse Brown was stabbed to death at North Orchard Park. Investigators ruled Davis had acted in self-defense after Brown and a friend attacked Davis and his girlfriend.

Brown's family and friends were in court — as were several extra bailiffs.

Judge Mike Nail had admonished the packed courtroom of viewers that he would "not tolerate outbursts of emotion or disruptions." So the profanity-laced outcry at the verdict prompted sheriff's deputies to remove the large group of Schairer's supporters from the courtroom.

"I'll ... kill you," one vowed.

As he had done throughout the trial, Davis sat quietly and didn't look back at the family.

Sitting behind him in the audience was Schairer's father, quiet and stone-faced. Davis thanked Nail in a soft voice after being told he would be free within hours. A Sheriff's Department spokesman said Davis had left the jail with a private security guard paid for by his family, who were not present at the reading of the verdict.

The outburst that greeted the verdict was obviously more than many in the seven-woman, five-man jury could stand. It had taken the group just six hours to reach its decision, and several began to sob before leaving the courthouse without comment to attorneys or the press.

"Some cases ... do not affect you and others, like this, are very emotional," Nail told the jury before dismissing them. "I was a prosecutor for 25 years

and have been a judge for three, and I feel the same emotions you're feeling today."

He told the jury he felt their verdict was "reasonable under the circumstances."

Prosecutor Greg Spiritosanto declined to comment, saying it was "too early" and he needed time to contemplate the jury's decision.

Defense attorney William Beeman, who had argued from the outset that Davis acted in self-defense, praised the verdict and urged the community to now "stop the cycle of violence" that began in May with Brown's death in North Orchard Park and was followed by the July shooting of Schairer.

Evidence during Davis' trial showed that Schairer, a friend of Brown's, had followed Davis and his girlfriend through town to Davis' Hawthorne Court home on the night of the shooting.

Davis, who had received death

threats as a result of the park stabbing, testified that he was in fear of his life when Schairer approached him shouting, "Are you Aaron Davis?" Thinking the man had a gun, Davis said he shot and killed Schairer.

Beeman expressed condolences to the Schairer family but said the verdict was appropriate. He said Schairer had been seeking revenge when he followed Davis.

"Revenge is like a snake, it will turn around and bite you," he said. "There is an old Chinese proverb that says when a man goes seeking revenge he should dig two graves."

He called Schairer's death a "real tragedy that shouldn't have happened" and blamed it, in part, on police officers who handled the Brown killing.

"If the public had been informed of the true facts in the killing of Jesse Brown, and the attack on Aaron and Julie



Aaron Davis
... is set free

(DeBaun) in the park, then the parents and relatives of the deceased ... would have seen it differently," Beeman said. He added that he encourages everyone now to "cease the cycle of anger and revenge" and added that Schairer and Brown would tell them the same.

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 3, 1995

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY



An aerial shot displays the extent of damage caused when an explosion ripped through Vacaville's Security Pacific Bank.

Guilty verdicts in third jury trial for Bell murders

John Francis "Jay" Fry Jr. is guilty of two counts of murder in the first degree.

That was the verdict announced by the six-woman, six-man jury in Fry's third trial on charges that he shot and killed James Bell and Cynthia Edon Bell in October 1992. The announcement came after a record-setting five weeks of deliberation.

The verdict, which included findings of special circumstances for multiple homicide and use of a handgun, means Fry will spend the rest of his life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Fry's attorney, Conflict Defense Attorney Lorraine Voss, left the courthouse without comment. But in court, Fry smiled when the verdict was announced. As he stood to leave his actions incurred the ire of several jurors who witnessed them.

"When I saw him smiling, I nudged the woman next to me and said, 'He's laughing!'" said one juror, who asked not to have her name printed. "I was so angry. It was like he didn't even care."

The courtroom was awash with emotion as the verdicts were read. James Bell's mother, Sharon Bell, began to cry and hugged investigators and prosecutor John Kealy.

"It's like it's hard to believe it happened," she said afterward. "I've thought so long about this moment and now I don't know what to say."

Kealy, too, praised the verdict. "I'm proud of these jurors," he said.

Jurors agreed that it was the culmination of all the evidence that led them to their verdict and they said they spent weeks in deliberation to go over the evi-

dence meticulously.

"We just really took our time to make sure we turned every page and digested every bit," said one woman.

Another juror, Sue Clay of Benicia, said finding Fry's gun during the trial was a critical turning point.

"Without the gun we couldn't have been able to come to the verdict we did," Clay said. "With it, we were able to link him to gun and murders."

The whereabouts of the gun had been a problem in both of Fry's previous trials.

During the final trial, a story in The Reporter about ballistics evidence prompted a Vacaville man to turn in a Ruger 357 Magnum he had found two years ago. Serial numbers linked it to Fry and a ballistics expert said the gun fired at least one of the bullets found at the crime scene.

Some of the jurors said it was Fry's own testimony that hurt his case.

"His stories just didn't line up," said one.

"He talked too much," smiled another. "That's what tripped him up."

During deliberations the group had been split 7-5 for acquittal but agreed to deliberate more.

Two other juries gave up deliberation efforts. Fry's first trial ended with a 6-6 vote and the second with a 7-5 vote for conviction.

The prosecution argued that the Bells were killed over drug debts owed to Fry by Cynthia Edon Bell and because he caught the woman breaking into his home the day before the killings — presumably to steal drugs.

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 9, 1995



John Fry Jr.
... guilty of murder

Blast, fire gut Vacaville bank

A jarring explosion and fire in a Vacaville bank left only the main vault standing and officials pondering the cause of the latest in a series of episodes involving local financial institutions.

The 1:09 a.m. blast and subsequent inferno at Security Pacific Bank at Alamo and Albacete drives rocked the surrounding neighborhood, sent debris flying into the street and onto nearby rooftops, and gutted the building.

The quick, massive destruction left officials with two possible causes: a natural gas leak or

Investigators find no cause in building's charred rubble

intentionally placed explosives.

"There was a loud boom and some kind of an explosion," said Vacaville Fire Marshal Pete Marino, who heard the blast from his Azalea Way home. "There was a very rapid extension of the fire throughout the building within minutes."

Agents and a dog with the bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and

Firearms, the FBI, and members of the Solano County Fire Investigations Unit began to meticulously sift through the debris Wednesday afternoon to determine the explosion's origin and cause.

"The force of the blast was in the front of the building," said Vacaville Fire division Chief Frank Moore, noting the

debris in the street, particularly on Alamo Drive in front of the bank.

"With the 'fall down' (from the roof) we won't pinpoint the origin until sometime in the morning (today)," he said.

The fireproof main vault, near the front of the bank and made of steel reinforced concrete, suffered some heat damage, Marino said, but everything inside was safe. The vault attached to the automatic teller machine was also left standing amid the rubble.

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Jan. 1, 1990

Teen gets two life sentences for murders

When he was 6 years old, Daniel Rusk had his first alcoholic drink. At 13 he was arrested for burglarizing a home and mutilating a pet bird and fish.

At age 17, he was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison without the possibility of parole for the brutal stabbing death of an elderly Allendale couple Marjorie and Kenneth Stotz in September 1993.

As with his past court appearances, Rusk sat quietly as his attorney, Robert Warshawsky, urged Judge Claude Perasso for a more lenient sentence.

"This is the case of a young man who acted inappropriately but who also suffered from a lot of problems," Warshawsky said, referring to Rusk's upbringing and drug abuse.

"At 13 he sat down and was offered his first illicit drugs by his parents in an apparent effort to provide better parenting."

Warshawsky blasted media coverage of the case and said society must bear some of the blame for Rusk's actions because society failed to intervene when he was a teenager.

"This is the type of case where the parents should have been prosecuted and CPS (Child Protective Services) should have stepped in, but that never happened," he said. "We as a society have to recognize there is some responsibility for not having done those things."

Rubbish, argued Deputy District Attor-

ney Laurie Lindenbaum.

"We're becoming a nation of 'don't blame me,'" she said. "It's always someone else's fault. He's not taking personal responsibility for his actions."

She pointed to a statement Rusk apparently made to counselors at the California Youth Authority, in which he said the incident never would have happened if his mother had just given him a ride to Reno.

Rusk told police he went to the Stotz house to steal a car to get to Reno. He was later arrested in Reno, and the victim's car was found in the nearby desert.

Lindenbaum also balked at the suggestion that Rusk, found guilty on two counts of first-degree murder, should get leniency because of his depraved upbringing.

"This case is not tragic except for the victims and their family and friends," she said. "The focus of sentencing is what is best and just for society, not what is best for Daniel."

She urged the judge not to lose sight of the victims in the case.

"Short of a serial murderer, I can't imagine a worse scenario than this one," she said. "These were people in the wrong place at the wrong time and because somebody chose their home ... they are no longer with us."

In pronouncing his sentence, Perasso said the case was a tragedy and called Rusk's lack of remorse and lack of accepting responsibility one of the biggest

tragedies of all.

"I don't think I can excuse a defendant because of his bad upbringing," Perasso said. "It would send the wrong signal."

He called the crime "callous" and ordered that Rusk serve the life sentences in prison, not the youth authority.

That decision was based in large part on a report from the youth authority, in which counselors said Rusk was not amenable to their setting.

"In spite of the defendant's immature profile, he is viewed as being isolated and rigid and therefore not vulnerable to the influence of older, more criminally oriented individuals," the report states. That "rigid" attitude toward therapy renders CYA therapy of no value, the report stated.

Perasso also based his decision on letters from the victim's family.

Marjorie Stotz' daughter, Barbara Power, urged the judge to impose a strong sentence.

"We will never be able to fill the void left by them," she said of her parents. "There can only be one sentence for Mr. Rusk, and I ask you to consider the real victims and sentence him to life without parole. Nothing can ever bring back my parents, but locking Daniel Rusk away will give my family peace."

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 24, 1995

Man gets 16 years in Gibeau's death

Reaching into an envelope, Vacaville resident Elsie Rossi removed a burnt piece of metal and dropped it on the prosecution table.

"This is all I have left of my grandson and his pickup," she said. "They shot him three times in the head and left him there while they stole everything they could from his truck ... and even gas on his truck and burnt him up."

As she spoke, the man charged with the killing sat silently at the defense table in Solano Superior Court, glancing over his shoulder occasionally to look at his own family.

Ryan Santos Bernal, 22, spoke not a word at his sentencing hearing Tuesday. He had pleaded no contest to second degree murder for the October 1992 shooting and burning death of Jason Gibeau, 17.

Judge William Harrison imposed the maximum sentence allowed: 16 years to life in prison.

But while he made no excuses for his client, Deputy Public Defender Peter Foor did ask the court to consider some extenuating circumstances associated with Gibeau's death.

The teenager, prosecutors say, was shot and killed because he was a potential witness in another murder case — the shooting deaths of James Bell, 25, and Cynthia Edon Bell, 40. Bernal, they said, had taken Gibeau to the scene and his death was ordered by John Fry, the man convicted of the Bell

killings.

"I'm not trying to excuse anything that happened, but Fry was an older, sophisticated individual," Foor said. "Just 24 hours before this incident, he had placed a gun in (Bernal's) mouth and threatened to kill him."

He said Bernal feels extreme remorse for the incident and is prepared to serve his time.

According to Foor, Bernal had gone to Fry's residence seeking a way out of having to carry out the death and then finally turned to his uncle, a Dixon man who investigators say has fled the country. Prosecutors say they believe the uncle was the trigger man.

But Deputy District Attorney John Kealy said Tuesday that Bernal made his own choices.

"During the course of the evening, Bernal had abundant time to understand what he was going to do and to reflect on the consequence for himself and Gibeau," he said. "With ample opportunity to do otherwise, he chose to continue."

Harrison agreed, calling the killing a "useless, senseless killing of an individual who ... was in the wrong place at the wrong time."


Pointing to Bernal's lack of a prior criminal record, the judge said the killing was "out of character and shows the danger of drugs in our society — particularly methamphetamine and the paranoia and violence associated with that substance."

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 21, 1995

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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Sitting at the world's 'table of humanity'

City's first diversity fair helps bridge cultural gaps

From Japanese origami and Afro-Cuban dancing to the exotic taste of Philippine lumpia, Vacaville residents and those from surrounding cities came together for entertainment and education.

About 500 people shared in the event organized by the Vacaville Youth Roundtable, designed to bring together dif-

ferent races and religions. It was Vacaville's first Cultural Diversity Fair.

"This whole presentation is about change; dealing with each other in different ways," said John Alston, a motivational speaker.

There were several activities to choose from during the mid-evening event at the Three Oaks Community Center.

In the main auditorium, visitors watched several entertainment groups strut their stuff. The Folklorica Dancers began the program, followed by the Gospel Singers and Just Gotta Dance troupe.

There also was fan and clog dancing, as well as Polynesian and Afro-Cuban dance troupes that gathered to display the rhythms of their cultures.

International food catered to the visitors, who packed a mixed plate of Middle Eastern,

Afghanistan, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. And hands-on craft booths and the live bands rounded off an event new to Vacaville.

"At the core of the universe, there is a rhythm, and if you're quiet ... you can feel it," Alston said.

But there was more to the event than entertainment.

"If you base your cultural understanding on food and dance and crafts, all we're going to have is a bunch of fat little kids who can dance," Alston said. "We gotta be more than that. It's hard."

Alston — who has traveled the states motivating youth to have pride in their heritage and teaching communities how they can come together — said that there are two things that must be done to bridge the gap.

Learn about different cultures, and agree that everyone wants the same things: Love, respect, affection, health and to be able to bring something to "the table of humanity."

"You need to know you count. The world is waiting for your contribution. You need to know you can make a difference," he said.

Alston, who has appeared on public broadcasting specials as well as the Oprah Winfrey and



Reporter file photo

The Koyasan Taiko Group of drummers performs in May 1999 during opening ceremonies of the Cultural Diversity Fair.

Montel Williams shows, added that if you don't control your mind, somebody else will.

He pointed to the influences of commercials and myths and said: "Everybody has a story about somebody that makes you say, 'You know how they are.' I want you to catch yourself. Here's the truth. There is tension. It's a fact of life. It's between every group: Parents and children, husbands and wives, Christians and Jews, blacks and whites. ... It goes on

and on.

"How do we crank it up?" he added. "It's all in the stories you believe. A lie is as powerful as the truth if you can get someone to believe it."

Keshia Mitchell and Jourdan Hamilton, both 13 and of Vacaville, said they thought race segregation starts at an early age, with different youth groups hanging out in cliques. "This brings everybody together," Hamilton said of the event. And 13-year-old Dezere

Robinson said she knows of other students who can't hang out with students outside of their race.

"Their parents don't let them mix with this race or that race. Sadly, they're influenced by their parents or other kids," she said.

Jeffrey Blakely and Maria Carrasco said they want to teach their infant daughter about both of their cultures.

"We want our child to know the difference between right

and wrong," Blakely said.

"To teach her that she is no less than anyone, no better than anyone," Carrasco added.

Alston said the key is relating to different cultures to get a rapport.

"You want to connect with them. But you can't unless you change their mood. And how do you do that? You influence them by the way you carry yourself. The control is in (the heart)."

By Roxanne Stites,
Staff Writer

Envisioning A Bright Future....

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Norm Catlan
678-9276

Dana Carpio-Foss
678-7386

Sherene Chandler
449-9852

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Al Woodruff
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Escapee apologizes, pleas guilty to breakout

David Wayne Anderson appears in court; says he is sorry for kidnapping Dixon man

Along with requesting prescription eyeglasses and his own radio, David Wayne Anderson was in court to plead guilty to escape and to offer a public apology to the Dixon man he admitted kidnapping last year.

"I want to apologize to Robert (Brian) Kelly, the man I kidnapped last year," Anderson said at the end of the hearing, when Solano County Superior Court Judge Harry Kinnicutt asked if he had anything to add to the record. "He is a decent person."

Kelly couldn't help but laugh when he heard of Anderson's statement to the court. "Gee, I've

got approval from a convict. That really makes my self-esteem fly," he said from his home after the hearing.

Anderson, who was deemed competent to stand trial, pleaded guilty to the escape, despite clear opposition from his defense attorney, Carlos Gutierrez.

"Mr. Anderson wanted to enter a plea today basically because, I think, he is very ill and he is tired of making the long journey to Solano County to appear in court. He wanted finality to this case," Gutierrez later said.

On Feb. 19, the court appointed two physicians to examine

Anderson to determine whether he was mentally competent to stand trial. Criminal proceedings were halted until that report was issued.

Three other charges against Anderson — kidnapping, robbery, and carjacking — were dismissed. The escape charge is being treated as a "third strike" offense, enhancing the typical six-year term of punishment for a prison escape to a 25-years-to-life sentence.

Anderson escaped from the AIDS unit of the California Medical Facility in Vacaville last April by cutting through the metal bars and lowering himself three stories.

Anderson then took Kelly hostage, forcing him to drive to a San Francisco hotel where he bound and gagged him. Kelly managed to free himself after nearly 12 hours. Anderson fled to San Diego where he was captured a month later after robbing a restaurant.

Anderson is being held at Corcoran State Prison in Southern California and is isolated from all other prisoners, Gutierrez said. Anderson was originally convicted of a 1983 murder charge in San Diego that also yielded a 25-year sentence.

Since December, Anderson, who is HIV-positive, has been

contending he is not being given medication at the prison.

He also said he has been denied requests for eyeglasses, and he wants to make two 20-minute phone calls to relatives in Ohio.

He further asked for the radio that was confiscated from his Vacaville cell after the escape.

Kelly said investigators told him Anderson had made prior apologies about the escape, but those were "through the grapevine."

"I'm glad he (publicly) apologized, because since this all happened I've wondered if he has ever given me a thought,"



David Wayne Anderson, who escaped from CMF, confers with his attorney.

Kelly said....

By Elizabeth Zach and Roxanne Stites, Staff Writers
The Reporter, March 13, 1998

Prison inmate deaths left legacy of awareness, medical changes

A year ago, three inmates died in Vacaville's prison, victims of searing summer heat and anti-psychotic medication.

Now, officials at California Medical Facility say prisoners are safer because of changes made in the aftermath of the tragedy. But some staff members have complained that they haven't received the same consideration.

"We're looking out for everyone, including the staff," said Lt. Rita Montez, CMF spokeswoman. "But we're keeping a closer eye on the high-risk inmates."

CMF Warden George Ingle said Wednesday that heat emergency measures now in place apply to staff as well as inmates.

"Our supervisors monitor our staff," said the warden.

The three inmates who died in the early morning of July 3, 1991, were mental patients on Haldol and other psychiatric drugs that reduce the body's resistance to heat. They also suffered from apparently undiagnosed physical conditions, a coroner said.

Such inmates are now considered at risk during heat emergencies, and are watched closely for any

signs of heat-related distress. A roster of high-risk inmates has been assembled, officials said, so staff members know who needs to be watched.

It's all part of an "extreme-weather emergency plan" which is designed to ensure the safety of inmates and staff.

As of Wednesday, there were about 800 names on the roster of high-risk in extreme heat because of the medications they take, or due to their physical conditions....

The emergency plan takes effect when the temperature reaches 90 degrees outside or inside the prison, which is not air conditioned.

Measures include moving inmates housed in closed wings inside if they're out on the yard, providing hydrating liquids, ice, fans and increased access to showers, said Montez. Ingle said the emergency plan represents the only changes made since the deaths.

The emergency measures have been augmented by a clinical review of the amounts of Haldol being prescribed, he said, but Ingle could not provide details....

By Fran Clader and Will Tizard, Staff Writers
The Reporter, July 3, 1992

AIDS hospice unit opens at CMF to give infected inmates comfort

Surrounded by armed guards and barbed wire, 17 men dying of AIDS will find an island of paradise.

The California Medical Facility in Vacaville opened the doors Monday to the Robert Evans Alexander Memorial Hospice Unit for its most seriously ill criminals spending their remaining days behind bars.

"It's an amazing place and I call it an island of compassion inside the prison walls," said Nancy Jaicks, longtime hospice volunteer and Alexander's widow. "I feel very strongly that how we take care of those facing the end of their lives is basically how we take care of ourselves. It's really important this aspect of everybody's life be paid attention to."

With its opening, the number of beds for severely ill inmates with AIDS jumps from 10. Prison spokesman Lt. Scott Kernan said the unit is much bigger and includes an outside garden.

The new unit is the final piece of a \$4 million puzzle allocated to CMF to enhance care for its 500 inmates with AIDS or HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS. Other improvements inspired by an unflattering report issued in 1992 by Assemblyman John Burton's Public Safety Committee include a 30-bed sup-

port care unit and a new HIV wing.

Ten years ago, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, a world leader in research on death and dying, warned prison officials AIDS would become a major health problem in the country's prisons. She us CMF — then with nine HIV-infected inmates — as an example.

Jaicks, who lives in Berkeley and worked on Kubler-Ross' staff, followed that warning and started a pastoral care program counseling inmates. Between 1985 and 1993, she and Alexander worked with more than 350 inmates.

Jaicks said the decision to name the unit after her husband moved her deeply.

"It's right on, it is righteous because he was a deeply caring person and this certainly reflects who he was."

In addition to running a support group for AIDS-infected inmates since 1985, Alexander was a world-renowned architect. Ironically, the AIDS hospice at CMF is the one thing that has his name on it that he didn't design.

Kernan said the first inmates will arrive sometime in April, after final negotiations wrap up with labor unions that represent prison workers.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, March 29, 1994

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REPORTER

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Firefighters, CHP return from riots

Firefighters and California Highway Patrol officers returned from their tour of the Los Angeles riots, tired but full of tales of devastation and not eager to return to the region.

"We don't ever want to go down there again," said Gary Robinson, a Vacaville city fire captain and deputy chief in the rural, volunteer district. Robinson was among a strike team composed of firefighters from Vacaville, Suisun, Fairfield, the California Medical Facility, Napa and the Valley of the Moon.

The firefighters, who made the 10-hour trip on fire engines, and 11 Solano area Highway Patrol officers, who flew down Thursday on a C-130 military transport, found themselves performing unusual duties.

The Solano CHP officers, among hundreds that were sent in to support law enforcement agencies, spent their time escorting utility company workers into burned-out areas to shut off gas valves and firefighters to fires and medical calls.

The officers, wearing riot gear and armed with shotguns, guarded the perimeter to allow the firefighters and utility workers to work, said Sgt. Dave Griffith.

"It was tense," said Griffith, recalling how they listened to police radios reporting sniper fire, shots fired, robberies and gang activity occurring within blocks.

"It wasn't like going to a passive demonstration on the Golden Gate Bridge," Griffith said.

"You get a tense, nervous feeling at any big incident, but even more so given what had been going on," he said.

The Solano officers had no confrontations and actually got thanks from some residents they had helped. "So there wasn't total animosity toward us," he said.

One of the first orders of business for the firefighters arriving in Los Angeles was to pick up bulletproof vests. They heard of a fire engine getting hijacked and the radios stolen, saw businesses burned to the ground and found police officers everywhere.

"God, it looked like the whole world had burned up," Robinson said.

The firefighters didn't get in much firefighting but did back up other crews.

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer
The Reporter, May 6, 1992

Vaca students escape south state mayhem

When Keith Siscel called his parents in Vacaville from his apartment Wednesday night, it wasn't to bring them good news about his latest final exam scores.

"He said he couldn't believe what he was seeing on television and asked if we had heard anything yet," said his mother, Pat Siscel.

That was the first she and Keith's father, Curtis, heard of the riots, arson and looting in Los Angeles. It was happening around the campus of the University of Southern California, where Keith is a student.

"He called around 6 p.m. and

told us about how they were dragging people out of their cars and beating them," Pat Siscel said. "He said it was scary because he couldn't leave. The school told them all to stay inside."

The campus was closed and Keith tried to assure his parents that he was all right.

"He said his finals were all postponed and so we told him to come home," she said.

Siscel and longtime friend Dave Mosher drove home from school together Thursday.

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, May 1, 1992



Bombs blasting in air

Spectators squealed with delight as they settled in for a good old-fashioned fireworks display at the Vaca Valley Christian Life Center in July 1998. Patriots all over Vacaville and the rest of the country celebrated America's 222nd birthday with pyrotechnics. For a city that had not had such an extravaganza in more than two decades, the event brought back home what residents have always enjoyed about celebrating the Fourth of July.

Reporter file photo

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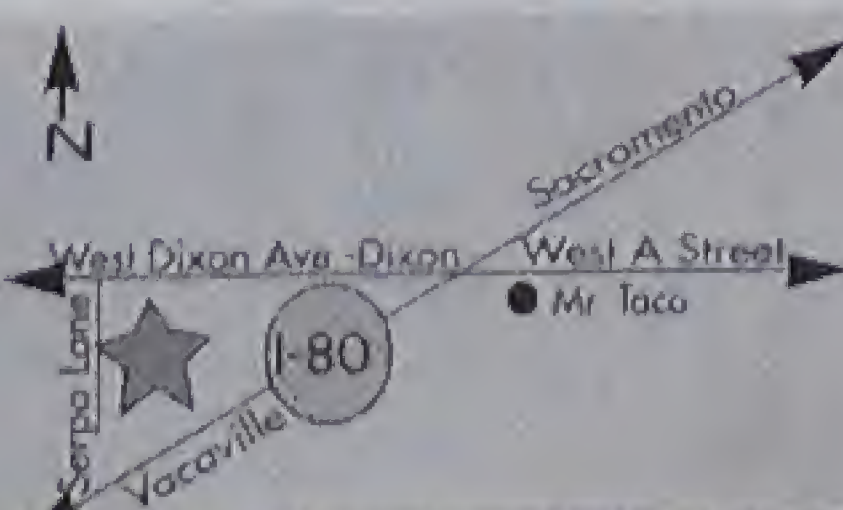
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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF VACAVILLE

Vacans take time out of day to record life

More than 200 Vacaville residents made history Sept. 17, 1992.

They didn't declare war, or cure cancer or even the common cold.

Instead, they kept a diary. "So many people believe that history happened a long time ago to important people," explained Vacaville Museum Director Ruth Begell. "But the fact is that history is a continuing process and we're all part of it."

That's why Begell launched "A Day in the Life of Vacaville," to commemorate the lives and times of the city of 70,000 during the 100-year anniversary of its incorporation.

Essays from more than 200 residents and scores of pictures shot by The Reporter staff photographers are now part of the museum's permanent collection.

The special exhibit opened Dec. 4, and will be on display as part of the centennial exhibit until March 1993.

Begell got the idea for "Day in the Life" after reading an article about a similar project in Ithaca, N.Y.

"I was reading some of the entries, thinking about what our town is like ... it's so different

than 100 years ago, and what legacy we could leave our town 100 years from now," said Begell.

After pitching the idea to centennial planners, she invited The Reporter to participate.

Photo Editor Rick Roach coordinated his staff of five photographers; and several freelancers to document everyday life between regular newspaper assignments.

"Some people worked through the night on this project," said Roach. "It was fun to document people candidly and create an end product that will be a part of Vacaville's history."

Begell was pleased with the newspaper's involvement. "This is such a visually oriented society, I thought it added a great extra dimension," said Begell.

While Begell was happy with the entries, she still wants more. She believes some writers may have started but not finished.

"If they have an entry, even a rough draft, I'd still like to have them turn it in. We're still accepting entries," she said. "The material we've collected on this day will be of interest and use to people anywhere from five to 100 years down the road."

By Diane Barney, City Editor
The Reporter, Dec. 12, 1992



3:15 a.m. — A left, Melissa Hope takes an order from Lucky's warehouse worker Gary Evans at Denny's restaurant.

7:15 a.m. — Students from Vacaville High and Willis Jepson Middle schools (below, left) pack a bus on their way to school.

8 a.m. — Dana Barnes (below) holds daughter Krispen as Dr. Mark Singer examines the 21-month-old.

Reporter file photos



Below are excerpts from diaries written by Vacaville residents to commemorate the city's centennial. More than 200 diary entries and more than 20 photographs by The Reporter photo staff were published in the Dec. 12, 1992, issue of the newspaper, and were part of the "A Day in the Life of Vacaville" exhibit at Vacaville Museum.

"The alarm clock buzzed at 5:15 a.m. as usual. The groping hand pressed the pause button and the sound abruptly ceased. At 5:22 a.m. it sounded again and was shut off again, this time more quickly. Three minutes later Walter Reed sleepily slid out of bed and began his morning ritual: shower (saving the water in a five gallon bucket for later use as flush water in the toilet), shave and then dressing while listening to Frank and Mike on station KNBR. By 6:10 a.m. he was out watering the lawn (using a flashlight to spot the sprinkler valves) later preparing breakfast of cereal and juice, feeding our 19-year-old cat Freckles and reading the Vacaville Reporter."

— Delores (Loli) Reed and husband Walter

"We sit to dinner at 8:30 p.m., pretty late but we all figure it's better late than never. I'm pretty lucky because my family knows that I have a pretty hectic schedule and really can't tell them what time I will be home or if I can pick them up. A lot of the time my husband, Alfonso Sr., will pick up my beautiful children."

— Martha Zunigo

"At recess we played with a foxtail. A foxtail is a toy with a ball, attached to it is a string. You toss it underhand by the string."

"Then (after school) we went to A&W because my dad didn't eat anything from Taco Bell. He got two Coney Dogs. I said they're gonna close it down soon. My dad said, they had A&W on Main St. opened since he was a little kid. I was surprised to hear that."

I saw little pieces of trash everywhere. It wasn't totally trashed all over the place. There were just little tiny pieces all over the place. If you add that all up it would be a lot. If we don't do something about it 20 years from now everything will be polluted."

— Melanie Keller

"One reason my former husband and I purchased this house in 1960 was the orchard — a little bit of country. Now it's gone and after digging out an Indian burial ground the workers are grading streets, lots, putting in water and sewer pipes and laying the underground cables for telephone and electricity and pipes for natural gas. Such is progress."

— Mildred McCallister

"I can't help but think how depressing it is that I have to be up before the stars are completely done falling to the earth. It's only 5:55. (Five minutes make a big difference when you're getting ready for school.) Suddenly I remember today's my birthday! I'm 14! Now I'm awake."

— Jill Turner

"I have P.E. next with Mrs. Boler. We ran 1 1/2 laps and then worked on the bars, which doesn't seem to get along with me because I can never cross the monkey bars or hang for 30 seconds. I majorly suck at bar work. By the time we could play basketball, I was already tired from struggling in the bars. When the period was finally over, I breathed a sigh of relief."

— Melissa Villa

"We longed to see our families more and return to the country. When it looked as if Jon could be transferred, I began flying to Sacramento and my mom and I would drive around looking at cities and towns between Oakland, Santa Rosa and Sacramento. Martinez is quite foul with dirty air. Vallejo has beautiful architecture but a violent gang problem. Santa Rosa is still very picturesque and rural but the housing prices have climbed too high for a first-time home buyer. Cordelia is in a flood plain and, like Fairfield, very windy. Antioch is too hot. Pleasanton is just too expensive and city-like."

"Vacaville had everything we were looking for. A rural, country feeling, warm townsfolk, a downtown that was still thriving, a town that was growing with businesses interested in investing and a lot of young families just getting started. Jon and I liked the mountain range that flows along the west side of the town and the long bike trail that winds along Alamo Creek with its "green belt" of oak trees preserved. Waitresses stop and linger to talk with you when you order, gas station attendants return incorrect change and wish you a nice day. People I don't know in my neighborhood yet wave at me as I drive the old truck down the street."

— Christine Brown-Kitamura

"When we arrived at Murillo's, it seemed like everyone else had the same idea. The place was packed. During dinner, we discussed the day's events. We talked about the game, our jobs, and the game. Then my mother (Betilda Castillo) asked how I could have accepted rides from strangers — didn't I know how unsafe it could be? I told her all I could see in the eyes of the people that helped me was kindness; I could feel their willingness to help. On this day, my Guardian Angel was definitely looking out for me. And I was thankful!"

"I have been doing this same commute for 6 1/2 years. When I started at Suisun City Hall, the building consisted of three triple-wide trailers: One for the Police Department administration, and operational services. We were the only city hall ever registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles."

— MarieBeth Castillo Adams-Keiman

"It is wine-making time again. Every year for many years, my husband, Harold, and his father before him, have always made wine with Zinfandel grapes that are grown on the ranch where we live."

"The first day is a special day, and friends, family and neighbors are on hand to help with the picking and the crushing. We pick 40 boxes total, to crush. No, we don't get in and stomp them with our feet, as in the old days. The crusher that we use is one that we have had in the family for a long time."

— Imelda Caliguri



4:17 p.m. — Partons and bartender take a quiet moment at TJ's Tavern on Main Street.



11:15 a.m. — Police Community Services Officer Meaghan O'Neill (left) marks tires of cars parked on Main Street.

3:30 p.m. — Margarito Ibarra (far left) trims Harold Johansen's a hair in a Main Street shop.



8 p.m. — A ballerina at the Grande School of Ballet (above) prepare for a class.



11:30 p.m. — A worker at LaShell's (left) prepares glazed doughnuts for the next day.


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1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY

Death claimed lives of Vacans who touched city

By Cynthia Roberts
Special to The Reporter

Opportunity, disaster, war and fate brought people to Vacaville, from the time it was a small fruit town through its era as a thriving city. Whether they were long-lived natives or just getting to know their way around, their lives touched the community.

Among those remembered after their deaths in the final decade of the 20th century were:

1990

Pietro Mordaca, 70, founder of Vacaville's renowned Pietro's Restaurant.

1991

Vacaville's "Empress of Real Estate," Lillian Lindquist, 90, who worked in real estate for 74 years, mostly from her office on Merchant Street.

McCune Garden Chapel's Rose Filardo McCune, 74, who handled countless funerals and reportedly never took a vacation in 50 years.

Frank Lorenzo, 91, who operated a Vacaville grocery store for 60 years.

1992

Robert Pokorny, 75, a former Vacaville schools superintendent and city councilman who boasted 33 years of perfect attendance with the Vacaville Rotary Club.

Radio and movie voice actor A. Purves Pullen, better known as Dr. Horatio Q. Birdbath, 83, who with his famous invisible dog, Roscoe, was well-known locally as a Nut Tree entertainer.

Real estate broker Glenn Miller, 72, who was part of the city's growth for 40 years, brokering deals from the office he shared at Lindquist Real Estate.

1993

Pioneer descendant Robert Boone Hawkins, 84, who founded Vaca Valley Orchards, a mail-order, fancy fruit and candy company.

Del McCune, 81, who founded and ran McCune Garden Chapel for 55 years and served as Vacaville's only ambulance driver for many years.

Businesswoman Carol Jean Zadnik, 74, a published composer and professional musician who co-produced many melodramas for Vacaville Fiesta Days.

1994

Mildred L. McCallister, 65, a noted humanist, author and activist for environmental and civil rights who taught for 25 years in Vacaville schools.

Helen E. Stephenson, 81, who co-founded Vacaville's Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball organizations.

John Ruiz Moriel, 80, a former Vacaville City Councilman who ran a car agency and gas station.

Maria de Jesus Hernandez, 46, a longtime champion of Solano County's migrant workers and Spanish-speaking residents.

1995

Jack Amphlett, 80, who with his wife owned and operated Amphlett's Interiors from 1958 to 1998, when they turned it over to their son.

Margarito Medina Ibarra, 76, who could be seen daily sweeping the sidewalk in front of Margarito's Barber Shop on Main Street, which he operated for 40 years.

Charles "Chick" Fortunato, 71, a longtime Vacaville schools counselor and administrator and a former principal of Country High School.

William Wagner Granizo, 72, a Benicia artist whose last work was

Vacaville's Centennial Art Project, a 21-panel series of tile murals installed in front of City Hall.

John McNight "Mac" Brazelton Jr., 81, a longtime Vacaville area rancher who served as a director of the Vacaville Fire Protection District for 38 years.

Ralph Whitfield Tichenor, 85, who was one of Leisure Town's first residents and wrote a weekly Reporter column for 13 years.

1996

G. Warren Hughes, 89, who was Vacaville's first paid fire chief. He was the fire chief when a volunteer work force built the city's first true fire station on Dobbins Street.

William Morris Daily, 88, one of "The Iron Men" of the 1928 University of California, Berkeley rowing team that won the 2,000-meter race at the Olympics in Amsterdam. The Elmira rancher also helped start the Solano County Grange Credit Union and served 40 years on the Solano Irrigation District Board of Directors.

Vacaville's oldest lifelong resident, Mabel Belle McCrory, 103, who recalled driving a horse and buggy to attend the old Vacaville High School on the hill in Andrews Park.

Retired Capt. James Manzer, 58, who served on the Vacaville Police Department for 28 years. A ranching accident took his life.

Retired crop duster and self-proclaimed redneck Norm Payne, 64, whose weekly, conservative columns appeared on The Reporter's opinion pages for six years.

1997

Grace Burton Powell, 64, who was a retired principal of Vacaville High School and a community "volunteer extraordinaire."

Howard Wood Sr., 78, who helped expand the volunteer fire department into a full-time paid operation, established a paramedic program, brought the first ambulance to Vacaville and served as the city's second paid fire chief.

Beloved music teacher Velma V. Fruhling, 85, who lived in Vacaville 75 years.

1998

Phil "Mr. CPR" Moehr, 93, who for 21 years organized and taught cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes alongside his wife, Edith. They certified an estimated 10,000 people in CPR by the time they retired in 1991.

Albert Damiano, 70, Vacaville's first building inspector who witnessed the city's biggest construction years.

Richard Dennis Shirley, 52, who chaired the county's Republican Central Committee and worked tirelessly on behalf of the Grand Old Party.

1999

Vacaville Police Sgt. Robert Andrew Lee, 42, who inspired many during his three-year fight against cancer, beating it into remission long enough to return to the job he loved for 20 years.

Frank Jerome Douglass, 103, an insistent civic leader who helped create the Monticello Dam and who remained active in Vacaville politics until age 90. The former campaign manager for Frank Buck Jr. could be seen around town wearing a dapper suit and tie and sporting his signature white straw hat.

Lorraine E. Voss, 48, a respected criminal defense attorney and Solano County's appointed defender since 1990.

Marianna Pokorny, 80, widow of Robert Pokorny and, in her own right, one of the most influential promoters of art and music in the community.

Death claims altruist Eva Buck

Vacaville's generous and unassuming benefactor, Mrs. Eva Buck, died Thursday afternoon, bringing an end to an era that began in 1875.

Mrs. Buck, 93, died of natural causes. The wife of the late Frank H. Buck II, Mrs. Buck was a lifelong resident of Vacaville, living in the family mansion on Buck Avenue until she fell ill and was admitted on June 1 to VacaValley Hospital.

An often behind-the-scenes supporter of Vacaville activities, Mrs. Buck watched this year's Fiesta Days parade from her home and hosted a luncheon afterward as she did every year, according to her longtime friend, Lillian Lindquist.

Mrs. Buck spent a good deal of her life in philanthropic works and supported numerous charities, mainly in Solano County. She was described as a "true benefactor," who avoided public recognition for her generosity.

"She did an awful lot of good for people and they didn't even



Eva Buck

know about it," Lindquist said.

"If anybody ever asked her for anything, she almost always said, 'Yes,'" said Ruth Begell, Vacaville Museum director.

Mrs. Buck made the Vacaville Museum possible by donating the land it stands on in 1981. She continued to support it through monetary donations throughout the years.

"This town's going to miss her, not for her money, for her support," Begell said. "She had a really strong behind-the-scenes presence."

Begell, who worked with Mrs.

Buck for about five years, said she tended to monitor causes that "were close to her heart" and donate money when she felt it was needed.

Her major interests included Children's Hospital of the East Bay, Child Haven in Fairfield, the Vacaville Museum, the University of the Pacific, and the University of California at Berkeley and Davis. She recently gave \$650,000 to UCD and endowed a chairmanship in agricultural sciences in memory of her husband, Frank H. Buck II.

She also established the Frank H. Buck and Eva B. Buck Family Foundation, which will continue support educational and charitable activities in Solano County and throughout California.

Mrs. Buck was born Eva M. Benson on May 18, 1897, to Martin Olaf and Emma Nelson Benson in Alameda. Her parents were Swedish immigrants who became U.S. citizens before the turn of the century.

She received her primary and secondary education in

Alameda and enlisted as a yeomanette in the U.S. Navy during World War I. She served her country in the Bay Area and received an honorable discharge at the end of the war.

She was the second wife of Frank Buck II; they married in 1928. They couple had two children, William Benson born April 20, 1934, and Carol Franc, born Dec. 28, 1936. Their son passed away in 1970.

Frank Buck II was elected to Congress in 1932, representing the five-county 3rd District of Solano, Sacramento, Yolo, San Joaquin and Napa counties. Mrs. Buck was his executive secretary until he died suddenly in Washington, D.C., in September 1942 before completing his fifth term.

The Buck estate at the time of his death totaled \$8 million.

Mrs. Buck was a member of the Vacaville Chapter of the Soroptimist Club, The Saturday Club and the Francisca Club in San Francisco.

By Fran Clader, Staff Writer
The Reporter, June 9, 1990

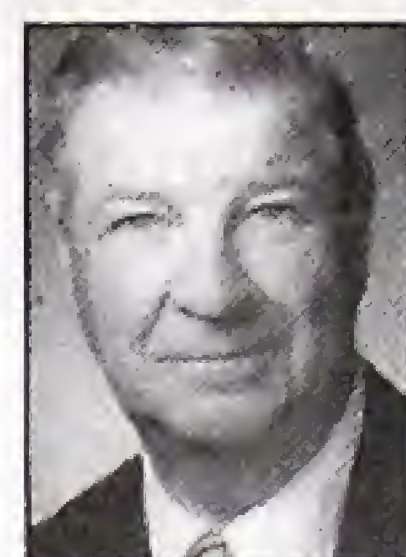
'Walking history book' dies at 86

Vacaville lost a "walking history book" on Tuesday night. Howard "Howdy" Rogers died at home at the age of 86.

Rogers, a third-generation Vacaville resident whose grandparents set down legendary fruit ranching roots in the second half of the 19th century, "knew everybody" in town, past and present, according to Vacaville Museum director Ruth Gardner Begell.

Rogers was born on Jan. 10, 1912, in Vacaville. His family owned the Vina Vista Ranchero, which was founded by his grandfather James Nathaniel Rogers in north Vacaville. It produced cherries, peaches, pears, apricots and prunes on 160 acres of orchards.

Over the years, Rogers' political role in the Vacaville community grew as he helped start the Solano Irrigation District in the 1960s and later served with the board of



Rogers

directors into the early 1990s.

He also served on the Vacaville Planning Commission and the Vacaville-Elmira Cemetery board of directors, according to his and his wife Vera's only child, Charles, who inherited the reins of the now 80-acre Vina Vista Ranchero, which produces mainly prunes and walnuts.

"He was a very caring man and always had many friends and always wanted to help the community and gave a large part of his life toward board meetings," said Charles Rogers.

While he was groomed by his father, James Howard Rogers, to take over the orchard, Howdy Rogers also ran the Pacific

Fruit Exchange in the 1930s.

In a 1997 interview for the Vacaville Museum's upcoming historical exhibit, "Solano's Gold, The People and Their Orchards," Rogers reminisced about fending off the California Fruit Exchange when it stormed into Vacaville in the mid-1930s to challenge him and the Pacific Exchange for the community's fruit shipping business.

"We had to treat the customers the right way," Rogers said. "From the time they put the fresh fruit down there, you had to pack it up, ship it and sell it. If they get good results, they'll be steady customers."

When the Vacaville Museum opened in 1984, Rogers was there to help historians capture the flavor of Vacaville's earlier days.

By Sean Gillespie, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Jan. 7, 1999

Nut Tree chairman, historian dies

Robert Harbison Power, chairman of Vacaville's famed Nut Tree, died at home Monday of cancer. He was 65.

A well-respected restaurateur, history buff, author, husband and father of six, Power led a prolific life in business, politics, the arts and history that took him around the world.

He belonged to nearly 20 associations, organizations and commissions.

Until 1962, Power was involved in Republican Party politics, serving as a delegate to the 1960 GOP National Convention in Chicago, treasurer of the California Republican Central Committee from 1958-60, and president of the California Republican Assembly from 1955 to 1956.

He resigned from every political position in protest of the Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from being active in party politics. Power became a federal employee when he took a job as the Nut Tree's first postmaster. He earned \$1 a year.

In 1990, Power was appointed by President George Bush to serve on the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee.

Power's personal crusade was to prove that English explorer Sir Francis Drake established his first English-speaking settlement in California at San Quentin Cove inside San Francisco Bay.

Solano County Supervisor Bill Carroll put Power back in the planning mode by appointing him last year as his representative to Bay Vision 2020, a Bay Area land use

advisory board studying the issue of regional government.

In 1990, a year after handing the reins of the Nut Tree partnership over to the third generation of Powers, Robert Power returned as chairman.

Power, whose parents, Bunny and Helen Power, started the business as a roadside fruit stand in 1921, and his sister, Mary Helen Fairchild, replaced three younger Powers in top administrative posts last year.

The patriarch replaced his son, Mark, as president. Power's daughter, Julie Pantiskas, replaced her cousin, Stephen Power, as general manager.

By Stacey Wells, Staff Writer
The Reporter, May 14, 1991

Basic Vegetable co-founder dead at 86

A pioneer in the food industry who presided over Vacaville's most prominent business for more than five decades, Jacqueline Holliday Hume, died Tuesday night in his San Francisco home.

Known to friends and colleagues as Jack, he died at age 86 after a long illness.

The co-founder of Basic Vegetable Products, now Basic American Inc., Mr. Hume was a 28-year-old Harvard University Business School graduate when he and his brother, William, launched a family venture dur-

ing the depths of the Depression in 1932.

Starting with a rented prune dehydrator owned by Vacaville rancher Ed Uhl, the brothers went on to build a major onion processing plant on Davis Street. From 1941 until 1986, when the plant was closed, Basic Vegetable employed several generations of Vacaville families. As many as 900 employees worked during peak seasons.

Born July 17, 1905, in Harbor Point, Mich., Mr. Hume spent his boyhood in Indianapolis and attended Phillips Exeter Acade-

my. In 1928, he graduated from Princeton University and in 1930 he earned master's degree in business administration from Harvard. In 1935, he married the former Caroline Elizabeth Howard. They celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary earlier this year.

As a successful American entrepreneur, Hume was also interested in politics. He was an active fund-raiser for conservative Republicans for more than 40 years. A longtime Ronald Reagan supporter, Mr. Hume was a member of his kitchen cabinet, an informal group of

advisers, many from the business world, who helped guide Reagan's rise to governor of California and later president.

A redwood grove near Vacaville's Pena Adobe Park was planted in honor of Mr. Hume after the company celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1982. The Jack Hume Grove will be expanded into a park area as a result of a family gift, the city announced in August.

By Cynthia Roberts,
Business Editor
The Reporter, Oct. 3, 1991



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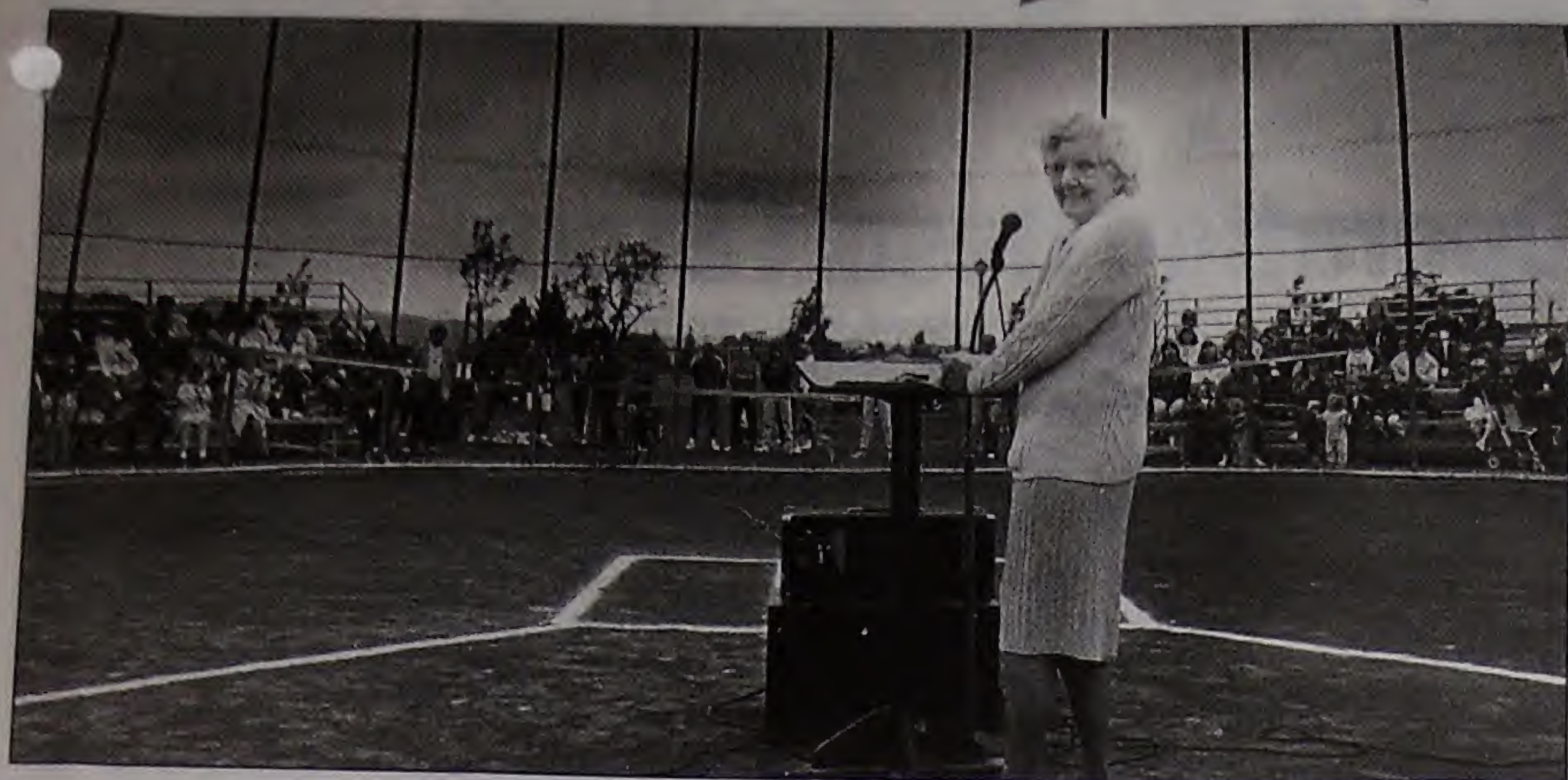
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Dave, Marge and John Bowman

1990-1999

THE PAST CENTURY



Eleanor Nelson, a devoted teacher and civic leader, was honored by the city with a park named in her honor. She died in 1993. Reporter file photo

'Mrs. Vacaville' succumbs at 95

Eleanor Dexter Nelson, whose devotion to her community earned her respected reverence as "Mrs. Vacaville," died Saturday at age 95.

The retired Vacaville High School teacher, civic leader and behind-the-scenes philanthropist had been blind and in ill health in recent years.

Raised in Lodi, Mrs. Nelson arrived in Vacaville in 1920 as a University of California, Berkeley, graduate intending to stay and teach only a year. She stayed a lifetime, becoming the teacher hundreds of Vacaville High School students remember. Mrs. Nelson also became a civic leader and, without seeking publicity, a driving force in many community projects, including a key figure in establishing the Vacaville Museum and developing parks and city recreation programs. One city park is named in her honor as is a room in the community center.

Mrs. Nelson was a widow, without immediate family after her husband, Harry, a farmer, died in 1969.

Friends said Sunday the Nelson land holdings made the couple wealthy after Interstate 80 was built through Vacaville. However, those same friends emphasized both preferred a low profile when making multiple civic and charitable contribu-

tions.

"She put money where her mouth was, but was very modest," Barbara Martell Comfort of Green Valley said Sunday. Comfort, a student of Mrs. Nelson in the 1950s and a fellow museum board member, said she "gave so much money to the museum in quiet. Sometimes she would write a check during a board meeting without members realizing it and quietly hand the check to the director."

Neighbor Angie King said Mrs. Nelson dearly loved children, often tutoring for free, and did "a lot of things people will never know."

She noted a wall in Mrs. Nelson's television room was loaded with awards for her community activities and was very proud of her 75-year-membership pin awarded two years ago by the Order of The Eastern Star of Lodi.

Among Mrs. Nelson's many other activities:

- Helped form the American Field Exchange Student program and the American Red Cross chapter in Vacaville.
- Past president of the Solano Republican Women and a member of the Republican Assembly.
- A member of several scholarship boards, she was recognized as a certified

50-year member of the UC Berkeley Alumni Scholarship Association. She had been chairwoman of the UC scholarship fund in Solano County.

- Founded the Saturday Club and the Vacaville Senior Citizens Club.

- Retired from the Vacaville High School faculty in June 1951 and had been named to the National Education Association Committee in 1943.

- In 1974, she was named First Lady of Vacaville Recreation.

- Served as a Central California Savings and Loan Board member.

- Led Community Chest Drive in 1958. An Eleanor Nelson Day has been designated every May at the general meeting of Upper Solano Republican Women Federated since 1984. She was charter president of the group in 1970.

After serving with the Vacaville Museum board, including as president, the board named her a member in perpetuity in 1988.

"Vacaville will miss her in ways it doesn't even know yet" was the way former student and museum board colleague Comfort concluded her feelings about Mrs. Nelson.

By Don Harness, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Feb. 15, 1993

'Gentle giant,' ex-city mayor Al Porter dies

Al Porter, 90, co-founder of one of Vacaville's first major employers and a former Vacaville mayor, died in his sleep in his Vacaville home.

Friends and relatives describe Porter as a "gentle giant" who helped modernize onion and garlic processing for Basic Vegetable Products, a company he helped Jack Hume start.

And Porter helped cast the mold for modern-day Vacaville as mayor between 1950 and 1958.

He was a man known to love Vacaville, his family, Basic Vegetable Products, people, golf and more golf.

"He was a most ardent golfer — he played golf after he retired roughly six days a week," said Morry Wasserman of Wasserman Travel, who joined Porter on golf tours around the world.

In an oral history recorded by the Vacaville Museum, Porter told how he arrived in Vacaville from Pennsylvania on June 24, 1942, when the city had about 1,500 residents.

"It was hotter than hell that day," Porter told Ruth Begell, museum director. "It was 213! I was tempted to turn around and go back to Pennsylvania."

Hume had offered Porter the Vacaville job in Pennsylvania.

Porter became Basic's vice president in charge of raw materials.

From 1942 to 1950, his family was one of two families sharing a house at the Basic Company site on Davis Street in Vacaville.

In 1950, the Porters moved to the home they built at 35 Vine St., the residence where Porter died Tuesday, after being released from Vaca Valley Hospital a day earlier.

Born Albert Stanton Porter on Oct. 1, 1906, in Mildred, Colo., near Cortez, Porter moved with his family to a 400-acre farm at Lewis, Colo., in 1910.

He attended Fort Lewis High School in Hesperus, Colo., University of Denver Art School, and graduated from law school in 1931.

Porter married his wife, Geraldine, in 1936. He worked in the mushroom business in Pennsylvania when World War II erupted.

He was elected to the Vacaville City Council in 1946 and served three four-year terms, including two terms as mayor when the mayor was selected by councilmembers.

He was a member of the Vacaville Rotary Club, a North Bay Healthcare Corp. director and a member of Friends of Radiology, Stanford Medical Center.

Porter was president of Vaca Valley Bank from its inception in 1955 until the bank merged with Westamerica Bank in 1982, but continued as a director with Westamerica for several years.

In 1958, he was appointed president of Green Valley Country Club.

As his friends and family attest, Porter was an avid golfer



Al Porter
... loved golf, city

and traveled around the world, including a trip to the North Pole in 1995 aboard a Russian Ice Cutter.

"He was a very leveling influence and always had a joke, had a smile and a huge amount of common sense," said Jerry Hume, Jack Hume's son and current CEO of Basic Vegetable Products, based in San Francisco.

"People liked him and, even years after he retired, he would come to all Basic Vegetable functions and he was looked upon to say a few words and reminisce with a joke or two. Al always had jokes...."

"He was really, really a fine gentleman, he's going to be greatly missed," said friend Michael Gonzalez.

"He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to play golf. He did a lot for Vacaville and was a real, real tiger, that guy, yet a very soft-spoken guy, a very intelligent man."

Solano County Supervisor Bill Carroll, also a former Vacaville mayor, was in the hospital at the same time as Porter, but had known Porter many years.

"He was a great supporter of the hospital," which is now NorthBay Health Care System.

Carroll added that more often than not Porter's contributions in time and his family funds were anonymous. Porter was a generous donor to The Reporter's Giving Tree, an annual effort by the newspaper to raise money for families in need at Christmastime.

"What stood out about him... He was such a gentleman, not only in the true sense of the word, but he was a gentleman. I never saw him lose his temper, he always was in control."

"He was an incredibly sharp man," said Walt Graham, who served as Vacaville city manager during Porter's tenure on the council.

"He had the strongest grip of any person I know. He was deeply involved in all areas of the community. He's the sort of person I'd like to have had as my neighbor."

"His friends were everybody in his life he ever touched," said his daughter, Donna. "We had him a long time, and we feel we were blessed."

By Don Harness, Staff Writer
The Reporter, March 6, 1997

Civic leader McBride dies at 79

John McBride, one of Vacaville's outstanding civic leaders for whom the local senior citizens center was named, died Nov. 17, 1994, in Vacaville at the age of 79 following a short illness, it was disclosed Sunday.

Mr. McBride perhaps will be best remembered for his efforts in seeing that the senior center which bears his name was established during his tenure as the city's first full-time recreation director.

His family remembers that his thoughts were always centered around children, seeking new ways to enrich their lives through recreational activities such as "Camp Ulatis." But he also wanted seniors to have a place they could call their own.

He secured land and old World War II housing and started the Vacaville Senior Center. A few years later, he got a new center built and the seniors, in appreciation, named the complex after him.

At the dedication ceremony for the center, Mr. McBride expressed his hope for the complex, saying it was not a memorial to himself but a place "where seniors can come and

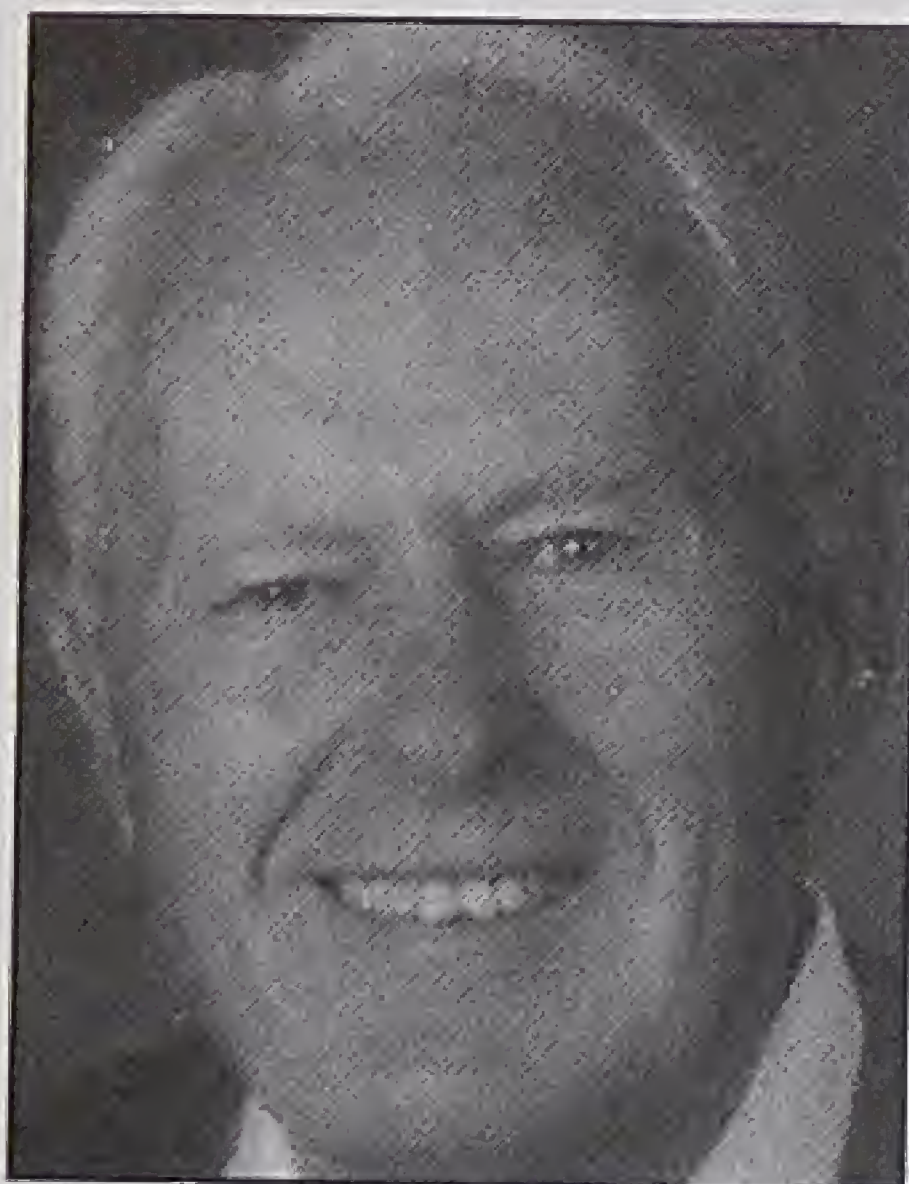
where the lonely can come. It's a wonderful place for people to get back into the mainstream."

Prior to and after World War II, McBride ran the Davis, Dixon and Woodland Lumber and hardware stores with his father. In 1953, his family sold their interest in the various businesses and he established the Vacaville Lumber Co. In 1961, he sold the lumber company, and returned to and graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor of science degree in recreation.

That same year, he became the first full-time recreation director of Vacaville, a post he held for 17 years.

It was during his tenure as recreation director that McBride made his biggest mark on the city.

He worked on restoration of the Pena Adobe, Vacaville's pioneer Spanish land grant home. A normal offshoot was to join in a dream to return Lagoon Valley to its original splendor. He spent many hours, weeks and years on the projects and could often be seen planting trees in these new park set-



John McBride
... senior center namesake

tions.

He worked closely with California Medical Facility to establish a large baseball complex and oversaw the prisoners who tore down old farm buildings using the wood to construct the complex. He worked with the telephone pioneers to have prisoners produce "Beep Balls" for blind baseball.

His many projects as recreation director including the Vacaville Community Center, Andrews Park pavilion, high school swimming pool, Fairmont, Alamo and 15 other park

sites around the city.

McBride suffered a serious heart attack in 1976, eventually forcing him to retire in 1978.

In an interview with The Reporter back then, he remarked that being a public servant was "the most wonderful thing in the world."

He spent the next five years of his life visiting countries throughout the world with his wife, but his community commitment was not over.

He joined an effort to begin work on the Vacaville Museum after he discovered that Art Deitz, first president of the Vacaville Heritage council, had an iron collection. A group in Texas had offered Deitz \$2,500 for it, but McBride felt that since the collection was from Vacaville, it should stay here. He bought it and then had to find a place to display it.

"His gifts to us and our community will never diminish," said Jim McBride of his father. "No person in the history of Vacaville has erected more plans to enrich Vacaville's recreational and historical accomplishments."

By Robin Miller, Staff Writer
The Reporter, Nov. 21, 1994



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DEATHS

Barbara Stanwyck, actress, 1/20/90, age 82
Greta Garbo, actress, 4/15/90 in New York, age 84
Sammy Davis Jr., entertainer, 5/3/90, age 64
Jim Henson, puppeteer, 5/16/90, age 53
Stevie Ray Vaughan, musician, 8/27/90, age 35
Leonard Bernstein, composer/conductor, 10/14/90, age 72
Ronald Dahl, author, 11/23/90, age 74
Michael Landon, actor, 7/1/91, age 54
Frank Capra, movie director, 9/3/91, age 94
Theodor S. Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, 9/24/91, age 87
Miles Davis, jazz trumpeter, 9/28/91, age 65
Redd Foxx, actor/comedian, 10/11/91, age 68
Gene Roddenberry, "Star Trek" creator, 10/24/91, age 70
Menachem Begin, former Israeli prime minister, 3/9/92, age 78

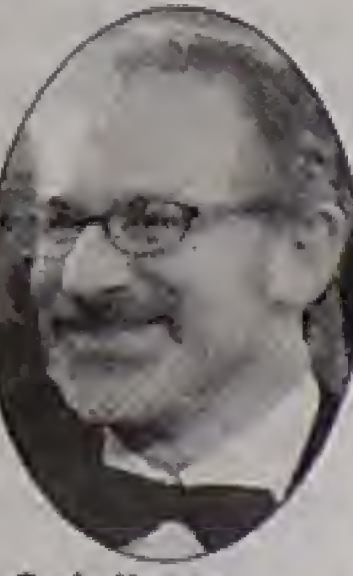


Lawrence Welk, band leader, 5/17/92, age 89
Rudolf Nureyev, ballet dancer, 1/6/93, age 54
Audrey Hepburn, actress, 1/20/93, age 63
Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court justice, 1/24/93, age 84
River Phoenix, actor, 10/31/93, age 22
Frank Zappa, rock musician, 12/4/93, age 52
Kurt Cobain, musician, 4/5/94, age 27
Richard Nixon, former president, 4/22/94, age 81
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, former first lady, 5/19/94, age 64
Cal Cullaway, scat singer, 11/18/94, age 87

FILM

Spielberg's special year

Director Steven Spielberg reaches new heights in Hollywood with two films as different as they could be. The first is the 1993 summer blockbuster "Jurassic Park," based on Michael Crichton's bestselling novel about a modern-day return of dinosaurs. In December, Spielberg premieres the haunting "Schindler's List," detailing the real-life story of Oskar Schindler, a German businessman, con man and hero who saved thousands of Jews from World War II death camps. The movie culminates a 10-year project of the heart for Spielberg and will win Academy Awards for Best Picture and for its directing in 1994.



Spielberg

EUGENE GARGALAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SPORTS

Yerrrrrrrrr outta there!

Some of 1994's top sports stories remove players from competition. Major League Baseball players walk off the field in August after team owners threaten to impose a cap on salaries. For the first time since 1904, the World Series is canceled. The National Hockey League locks out players in a dispute over rising player salaries even before a new season can begin. The lockout lasts almost half the season. A month before the 1994 Winter Olympics in Norway, seedy associates of figure skater Tonya Harding try to eliminate rival skater Nancy Kerrigan from competition by clubbing her on a knee in Detroit, site of the U.S. championships. Kerrigan recovers in time for the Olympics in February and wins a silver medal behind Oksana Baiul of Ukraine. Harding skates miserably.



Harding

KEN GEIGER/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

TRENDS

New in 1990
 ■ A McDonald's in Moscow
 ■ Low-calorie fat substitute (Simplesse)
 ■ FDA-approved contraceptive implant (Norplant)
New in 1993
 ■ Legal euthanasia, in the Netherlands
 ■ Combat roles for women in the U.S. military
New in 1994
 ■ Conclusive evidence of the existence of black holes in space
 ■ An all-female America's Cup sailing team
 ■ TV series "ER" on NBC



George Clooney of "ER"

1990-1994

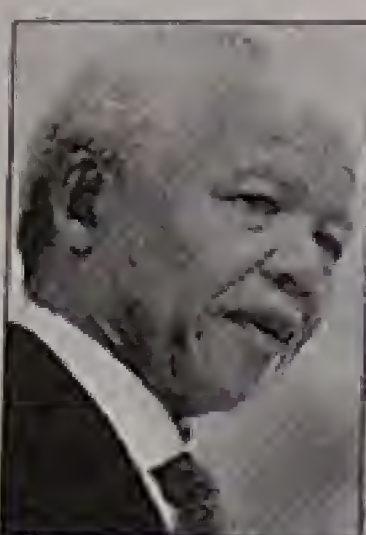
MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

1990

■ **Jan. 3:** Two weeks after President Bush sent 25,000 U.S. troops into Panama to capture Manuel Noriega, the Panamanian strongman surrenders to U.S. authorities. Noriega is wanted on federal racketeering charges including selling intelligence to Cuba and allowing Colombian cocaine to pass through his country.

■ **Jan. 4:** Charles Stuart, who claimed that he and his pregnant wife had been shot by a black man, leaps to his death from a bridge in Boston after learning that he had become the prime suspect in the killing of his wife.

■ **Jan. 18:** Washington Mayor Marion Barry is arrested on a drug charge. Barry will be sentenced to six months in prison and fined for a misdemeanor charge of cocaine possession.



Mandela

■ **Feb. 11:** Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, is released from prison in South Africa after serving 27 years on a charge of treason.

■ **March 13:** The Soviet Congress of People's Deputies repeals Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution, which gave the Communist Party a political monopoly.

■ **April 25:** The shuttle Discovery deploys the Hubble Space Telescope, which later is found to have a design flaw that will prevent it from focusing sharply on objects in distant space.

■ **June 4:** Dr. Jack Kevorkian admits he helped Janet Adkins, 54, of Portland, Ore., commit suicide. It is the first of a series of assisted suicides that will make him a household name.

■ **Oct. 3:** Split into two countries since Nazi Germany's 1945 defeat in World War II, the two Germanys are formally reunified.

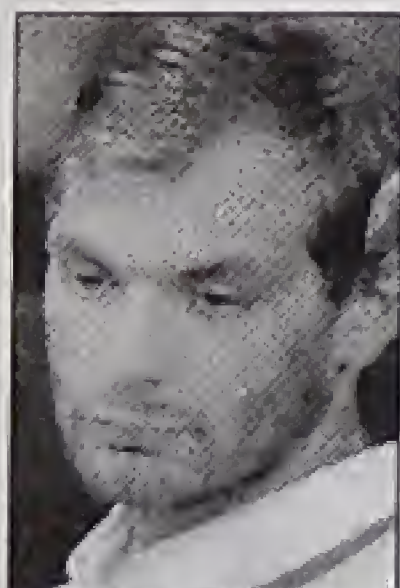
■ **Nov. 15:** The Senate Ethics Committee opens hearings on the so-called Keating Five — senators who had interceded with banking regulators on behalf of Charles Keating Jr., a savings and loan director who had contributed heavily to their campaign funds. The committee finds Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., guilty of substantial misconduct; the other four are mildly reprimanded.

1991

■ **March 3:** Los Angeles police officers beat black motorist Rodney King, 25. After a videotape of the violence is played on CNN, the incident generates an outcry against police brutality. The tape depicts at least a dozen officers surrounding King, landing at least 50 nightstick blows and breaking King's skull in nine places.

■ **May 1:** With a 16-strikeout, 3-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays, Texas Rangers ace Nolan Ryan becomes the first pitcher in major-league history to throw seven no-hitters.

■ **July 24:** Jeffrey Dahmer, a paroled child molester, confesses to killing 11 men and boys in Milwaukee and eating the flesh of some of them. In November 1994, Dahmer will be slain in prison.



Dahmer

VAL MAZENEK/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

■ **Aug. 19:** Hard-liners frustrated by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's democratic reforms attempt a coup. As troops surround the Russian Parliament building in Moscow, thousands gather to show support for the republic's government. Clamoring atop a tank, Russian President Boris Yeltsin calls the takeover unconstitutional. Two days later, the coup collapses and Gorbachev returns. But his power is diminished and he resigns. On Christmas Day, the Soviet Union is disbanded, effectively ending the Cold War.

Operation Desert Storm

In the early hours of Aug. 2, 1990, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invades and occupies the oil-rich Persian Gulf emirate of Kuwait. The United States and Britain quickly dispatch ground, air and naval forces to the region. They are joined in what becomes Operation Desert Shield by Egyptian and Moroccan soldiers.

Tensions increase Sept. 21 when Saddam, known to possess chemical and biological weapons, threatens to launch pre-emptive attacks on his Arab neighbors and Israel.

On Nov. 29, the U.N. Security Council imposes a Jan. 15 deadline for Saddam to pull out his forces.

On Jan. 16, a U.S.-led coalition of 28 nations launches an aerial assault. Operation Desert Shield becomes Operation Desert Storm.

The allied forces use high-tech weaponry to bombard Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, and bomb Iraqi troops dug in across Kuwait. Iraq retaliates by aiming Scud missiles at U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia and at cities in Israel, killing at least four Israeli civilians. On Jan. 29, the first ground battle begins, as allied



A U.S. soldier cries after learning that a fellow crewman was killed in a mortar explosion during Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait.

DAVID C. TURNLEY/DETROIT FREE PRESS

troops force an Iraqi retreat in a three-day fight that leaves 12 Marines dead. Not until Feb. 25 does the ground war begin in earnest. Three days later, the war ends as U.S. troops take Kuwait City and President Bush declares that the oil state has been liberated.

The Persian Gulf War receives overwhelming support from the American public. It is a media war, with 24-hour coverage on CNN. Daily briefings make stars of U.S. military leaders Gen. Norman

Schwarzkopf, who is leading the war, and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The six-week war leaves 148 U.S. troops killed, 472 wounded; the allies estimate that 150,000 Iraqis have been killed. Bush vows that it will not become another Vietnam, and once Kuwait is captured, there is no military advance into Iraq. Hussein remains in power and will continue to be a nemesis to the United States and its allies as the century nears its end.

Collaring 'The Juice'

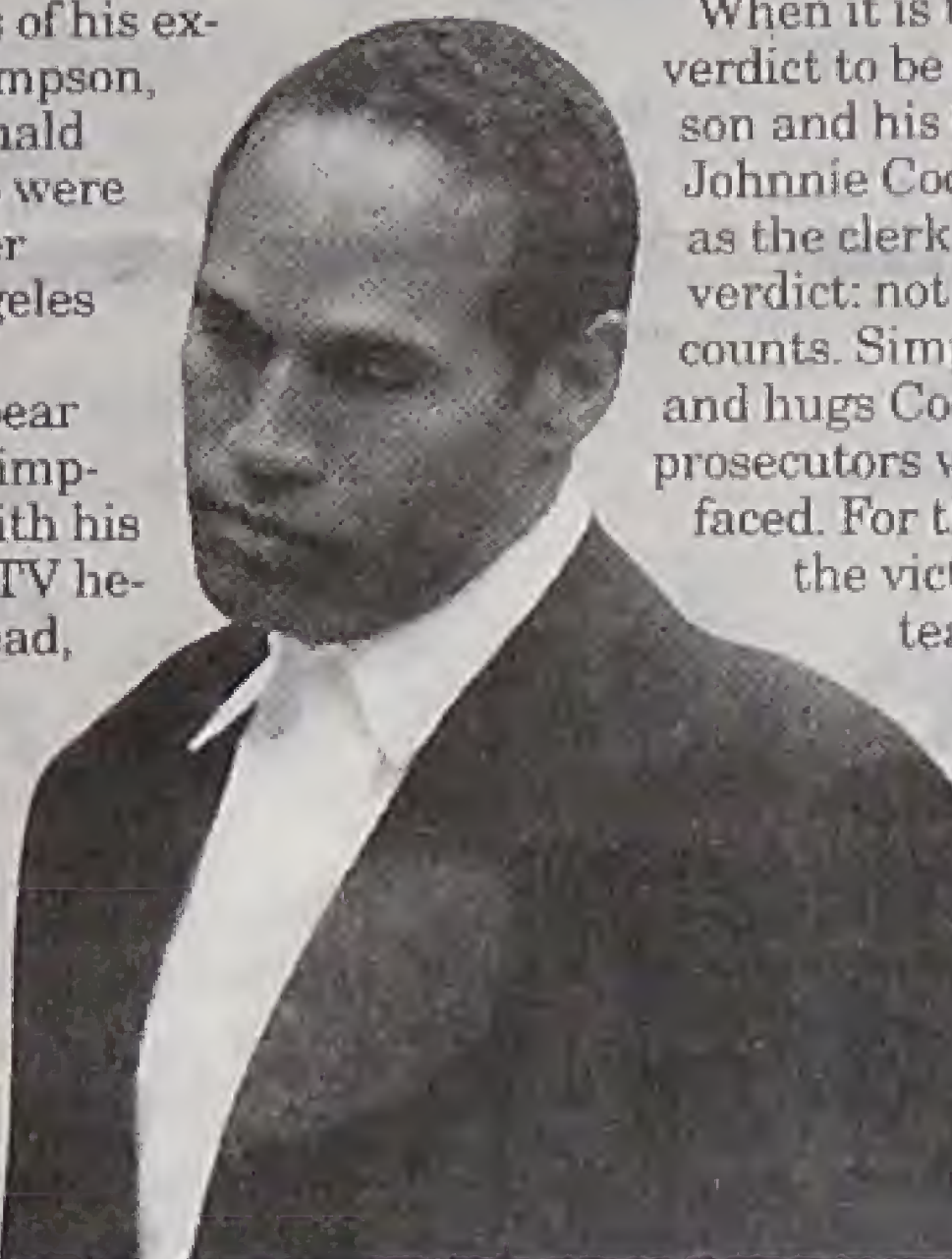
Americans are transfixed on June 17, 1994, as network TV interrupts regular programming for a live broadcast of a white Ford Bronco carrying O.J. Simpson on a Los Angeles highway with a phalanx of police cruisers in low-speed pursuit.

Simpson — football hero, movie actor and pitchman — is being sought in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25. The two were found dead outside her townhouse in Los Angeles on June 13.

After failing to appear for an arraignment, Simpson, 46, takes flight with his friend Al Cowling. As TV helicopters hover overhead, Simpson lies in the back seat with a gun. Ninety minutes later, he surrenders to police after negotiations over his car phone. He is charged with two counts of first-degree murder.

The trial becomes a media spectacle. Jury selection begins in September and continues through early December. The trial is set to begin in January. Nine months later, after the judge and attorneys for both sides have become household names, the jury reaches a verdict.

When it is time for the verdict to be read, Simpson and his lead attorney, Johnnie Cochran, stand as the clerk reads the verdict: not guilty on both counts. Simpson smiles and hugs Cochran. The prosecutors watch stone-faced. For the families of the victims, there are tears and looks of anguish. The killings will remain unsolved as Simpson sticks to his story.



KEN LUBAS/LOS ANGELES TIMES

■ **Oct. 6:** Anita Hill, a law professor who worked for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, contends at a Senate confirmation hearing that he made lewd suggestions to her. Thomas calls the allegations "lies" and "sleaze." He is confirmed by a 52-48 vote on Oct. 15.



Hill

ERIN COO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

■ **Oct. 16:** Former merchant seaman Georges Hennard Jr., 35, walks through a restaurant in Killeen, Texas, killing 23 people and wounding at least 20 more before turning the gun on himself.

■ **Nov. 8:** Earvin "Magic" Johnson, 32, star forward for the LA Lakers, announces that he is HIV-positive and that he will retire.

1992

■ **Jan. 8:** President Bush, who has the flu, vomits and faints during a state dinner in Tokyo.

■ **Jan. 26:** Presidential candidate Bill Clinton appears on CBS' "60 Minutes" and answers questions about adultery: "I have acknowledged causing pain in my marriage. I think most Americans who are watching this tonight, they'll know what we're saying, they'll get it and they'll feel that we have been more than candid."

■ **March 7:** The New York Times first reports on questionable investments made by Bill and Hillary Clinton in the White-water Development Corp.

■ **April 8:** Retired tennis star Arthur Ashe announces that he contracted the AIDS virus from a blood transfusion. Ashe will die Feb. 6, 1993, at age 49.

■ **May 2:** Violence erupts in Los Angeles after an all-white jury acquits four white police officers of beating black motorist Rodney King. At least 58 people are killed and thousands injured. Property damage estimates run as high as \$1 billion.

■ **May 19:** Vice President Dan Quayle, in a campaign speech, criticizes TV's Murphy Brown character for having a baby out of wedlock, saying the CBS sitcom is promoting anti-family values.

■ **May 22:** Johnny Carson takes his final curtain call after 5,000 shows and nearly 30 years on "The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson."

■ **Aug. 24:** Hurricane Andrew slams into Florida, killing at least 15 and turning thousands out of their homes. Damage is estimated at \$15 billion to \$20 billion.

■ **Oct. 24:** The Toronto Blue Jays win the first World Series for a Canadian team.

■ **Nov. 4:** With independent candidate Ross Perot calling for change, a record 104 million Americans go to the polls. Democrat Bill Clinton and his running mate, Al Gore, win with 43 percent of the popular vote.

1993

■ **Jan. 31:** The Dallas Cowboys defeat the Buffalo Bills 52-17 to win Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena, Calif. It is the team's first championship under owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson.

■ **Feb. 26:** A bomb planted in an underground parking garage of New York's 110-story World Trade Center shakes the twin towers. Five people are killed and hundreds suffer from smoke inhalation. Officials receive more than 40 phone calls claiming responsibility. On June 24, eight followers of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who is under investigation in connection with the bombing, are accused of plotting several terrorist attacks on New York landmarks, including a suicide bombing of the United Nations headquarters.

■ **April 17:** A federal jury convicts police Sgt. Stacey C. Koon and officer Laurence M. Powell of civil rights violations in the Rodney King beating. Two other officers are acquitted.

■ **April 19:** Federal agents advise religious cult leader David Koresh and his 95 followers that tear gas will be used against them unless they surrender. In February, the 77-acre Branch Davidian compound east of Waco, Texas, became the center of attention when federal agents were fired upon by Davidians as the agents raided the complex. At dawn, 51 days after the gunbattle, an armored vehicle smashes through a front wall of the compound. Tear gas is later employed. At 12:15 p.m., flames and smoke begin to pour from the compound. Only nine cult members survive the inferno. At least 17 children are killed.

■ **April 30:** Tennis champion Monica Seles is stabbed by a fan in Hamburg, Germany. She will recover and return to the game.

■ **July 19:** President Clinton and the Joint Chiefs of Staff compromise on gays in the armed forces. The new rule: "Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue."

Monica Seles

LINDA CATAFEO/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

■ **Aug. 1:** The Great Flood of 1993, believed to be the worst ever in the Mississippi Valley, kills 50 people, destroys or damages 65,000 homes and displaces 38,000 families. Total damage is put at \$10 billion to \$15 billion across nine states.

■ **Aug. 24:** NASA's \$1 billion, Mars Observer vanishes a day before it was scheduled to begin orbiting the Red Planet.

■ **Sept. 10:** The body of former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos is laid to rest in a mausoleum at his family's mansion in Laog, Marcos died in exile in Hawaii and is refused any state honors.

■ **Sept. 13:** Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat, stepping forward eagerly, shakes hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after signing a peace accord on the White House lawn. Their people had been warring for 45 years.

■ **Oct. 4:** Boris Yeltsin crushes a hard-line rebellion in a daylong battle that leaves the Russian White House, or parliament building, scarred by fire and explosions.

■ **Oct. 15:** South African President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela are awarded jointly the Nobel Peace Prize for their work to end apartheid.

1994

■ **Jan. 17:** An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale in California kills 57 people and causes \$15 billion in damage.

■ **Jan. 21:** Lorena Bobbitt, who cut off part of her husband's penis, is found not guilty of malicious wounding, by reason of insanity.



Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley at the MTV Video Awards.

■ **March 26:** Pop icon Michael Jackson marries Elvis Presley's daughter, Lisa Marie Presley. They will file for divorce less than two years later.

■ **April 26-29:** Allowed to participate in national elections for the first time, South African blacks sweep African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela to the presidency. The voting marks the birth of democracy in South Africa.

■ **May 6:** England's Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand officially francoise the \$15 billion Channel Tunnel, which connects England to the European continent via an underwater passageway.

■ **May 10:** Serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, is executed by injection in Joliet, Ill., for the sex slayings of 33 young men and boys in Chicago in the 1970s.

■ **Aug. 31:** The outlawed Irish Republican Army announces "a complete cessation of military operations" in its 25-year armed struggle to end British rule in Northern Ireland, setting off spontaneous demonstrations by Catholics and Protestants alike.

■ **Oct. 15:** Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide returns to power in Port-au-Prince. A U.S. delegation persuades Haiti's ruling junta to step down, averting bloodshed.

■ **Nov. 3:** Susan V. Smith, 23, of Union City, S.C., is arrested in the deaths of her two sons, who she said were kidnapped by a black man. She later admits she rolled the car into a lake, her children strapped in their car seats. In July 1995, Smith will be sentenced to life in prison.



Smith

BOB LEVITON/CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

■ **Nov. 6:** George Foreman, 45, becomes the oldest boxer in any weight class to win a championship fight when he knocks out Michael Moorer, 26, in Las Vegas in the 10th round.

■ **Nov. 8:** George W. Bush, the eldest son of the former president, upsets popular Democratic incumbent Gov. Ann Richards to win the Texas governor's race.

■ **Nov. 9:** Republicans gain control of Congress for the first time since 1946.

The Past Century - Now it's available online.

1995-1999

MILLENNIUM NOTEBOOK

THE WORLD MOURNS

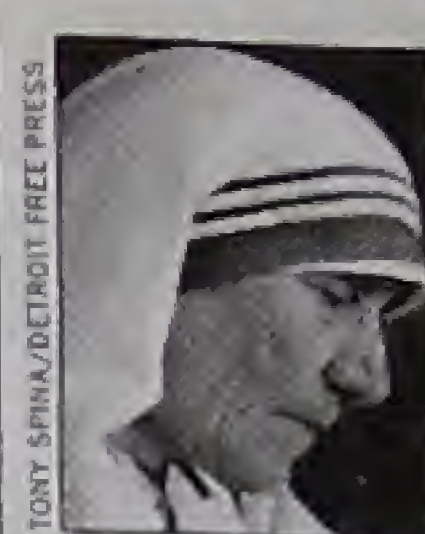
Candle in the wind

TV viewers are jolted when a report interrupts programming on Aug. 30, 1997. Somber news anchors confirm that **Princess Diana**, 36, has been in an automobile accident in Paris. Within hours, officials confirm that she is dead. A chauffeur-driven Mercedes-Benz carrying Diana and romantic companion Dodi Fayed is followed into a tunnel by photographers on motorcycles. Traveling at least 60 mph, the car goes out of control and hits a wall. Killed with Diana are Fayed and chauffeur Henri Paul. Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones is critically injured.

A week later, millions of Americans rise before dawn to watch Diana's regal funeral on TV. In a deeply moving service, Prime Minister Tony Blair reads from the Bible, Elton John sings a new rendition of "Candle in the Wind," and Diana's brother, the Earl of Spencer, delivers a passionate eulogy.

Angel of Calcutta

Mother Teresa, the nun who dedicated her life to helping the sick and destitute of India, dies of a heart attack at age 87 on Sept. 5, 1997. Born in Albania and raised in



India, Mother Teresa entered the order of the Irish Sisters of Loreto in 1928 and taught high school in Calcutta. In 1946, she dedicated her life to helping the impoverished, founding the Order of Missionaries of Charity in 1948. The order would open 600 missions in more than 100 countries. Mother Teresa's work earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the admiration of millions around the world.

Tragedy revisits Camelot

At dusk on July 16, 1999, **John F. Kennedy Jr.** pilots a small plane from New Jersey. With him are his wife, **Carolyn Bessette**, and her sister, **Lauren**. The plane never arrives at Martha's Vineyard, and the next morning, the Coast Guard and Navy begin a search that will last five days. On Sept. 21, the three bodies are located on the ocean floor, still inside the single-engine plane. In a private service aboard a Navy ship, ashes of the three are buried at sea.

DEATHS

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, mother of John F. Kennedy, 1/22/95, age 104
Selena Quintanilla Perez, singer, 3/31/95, age 23
Howard Cosell, sports broadcaster, 4/23/95, age 77
Ginger Rogers, actress/dancer, 4/25/95, age 83
Jerry Garcia, singer, 8/9/95, age 53
Gene Kelly, actor/dancer, 2/2/96, Calif., age 83
George Burns, actor/comedian, 3/9/96, age 100
Erma Bombeck, humorist, 4/22/96, age 69
Ella Fitzgerald, singer, 6/15/96, age 78
Tupac Shakur, rapper, 25, 9/13/96, age 25
Carl Sagan, astronomer, 12/20/96, age 62
Notorious B.I.G., rapper, 3/9/97, age 24
Jacques Cousteau, underwater explorer, 6/25/97, age 87
Jimmy Stewart, actor, 7/2/97, age 89
Charles Kuralt, broadcast journalist, 7/4/97, age 62
John Denver, singer/songwriter, 10/12/97, age 53
Chris Farley, comedian, 12/18/97, age 33
Sonny Bono, congressman and former entertainer, 1/5/98, age 62
Frank Sinatra, singer, 5/14/98, age 82
Roy Rogers, cowboy actor/singer, 7/6/98, age 86
Florence Griffith Joyner, Olympic sprinter, 9/21/98, age 38
Gene Siskel, film critic, 2/20/99, age 53
Stanley Kubrick, film director, 3/7/99, age 70
Joe DiMaggio, baseball great, 3/8/99, age 84
George C. Scott, actor, 9/22/99, age 71
Wilt Chamberlain, basketball player, 10/12/99, age 63
Walter Payton, football player, 11/1/99, age 45



"I did have a relationship with (Monica) Lewinsky that was not appropriate. It constituted a critical lapse of judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible." — President Clinton

Scandal in the White House

At the start of 1998, an investigation by independent counsel Kenneth Starr into President Clinton's conduct — ranging from an Arkansas real estate investment to a shakeup of the White House travel office to the handling of FBI files on members of previous Republican administrations — seems headed nowhere. Then, on Jan. 21, The Washington Post discloses a sexual liaison between Clinton and a young White House intern named Monica Lewinsky. The Post suggests that Clinton sought, illegally, to cover up the affair. Suddenly, Starr's inquiry is alive again.

In the following days, denials spill forth from the White House. In one extraordinary moment, Clinton issues an angry, emphatic denial. "I want to say one thing to the American people," Clinton says, shaking his finger. "I want you to listen to me. I'm going to say this again; I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky. I never told anybody to lie, not a single time. Never. These allegations are false."

As the year moves forward, it belands solidly, before lifting her limp leg and collapsing in pain. Her team goes on to win the gold.

July 27: A crudely made pipe bomb explodes in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, killing one person and injuring 111 others. Security guard Richard Jewell, who at first is hailed as a hero, soon becomes a suspect. Three months later, the FBI clears Jewell's name.

Aug. 6: NASA scientists report that a meteorite originating on Mars and found in Antarctica harbors what they believe to be compelling signs of a "primitive form of microscopic life."

Nov. 5: President Clinton shows off his political skills with an impressive re-election over Republican candidate Bob Dole.

Dec. 5: President Clinton names Madeleine Albright secretary of state, making her the highest-ranking female government official in U.S. history.

Dec. 26: JonBenet Ramsey, a 6-year-old girl who has participated in beauty pageants, is found strangled in her family home in Boulder, Colo. This begins one of the most sensational crime stories of the latter half of the century. Suspicion falls on the parents as the investigation plods on.

1997

Jan 16: Ennis W. Cosby, the only son of comedian Bill Cosby, is fatally shot on a freeway ramp in Los Angeles.

Feb. 4: O.J. Simpson is found liable in civil court in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. A jury awards \$8.5 million in compensatory damages and \$25 million in punitive damages.



Clinton



Lewinsky



Starr

comes increasingly clear that something did transpire between the president and the intern. On Aug. 6, Lewinsky testifies before the grand jury in exchange for immunity from prosecution. And on Aug. 17, Clinton

testifies — on a closed-circuit video link between the White House and the grand jury room.

Later that day, he admits: "I did have a relationship with Lewinsky that was not appropriate. It constituted a critical lapse of judgment and a personal failure on my part for which I am solely and completely responsible. ... I misled people, including even my wife. I deeply regret that." He also lashes out at the independent counsel.

Starr submits a report to the House on Sept. 9. Two days later, the House makes the report, with all its salacious details, public. On Oct. 8, the House approves an impeachment investigation. Starr makes his case before the House Judiciary Committee on Nov. 19, and on Dec. 8-9, White House lawyers present the president's defense. On Dec. 19, the House, largely divided along party lines, votes to impeach Clinton. It is only the second time in U.S. history that a president has been impeached.

On Feb. 12, 1999, the Senate votes to acquit President Clinton on two articles of impeachment.

Terror in the heartland

Oklahoma City prides itself as a place where nothing much happens. Then, on April 19, 1995, it becomes the site of the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history. At 9:02 a.m., a homemade bomb placed in a rented truck explodes outside the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, killing 168 people and injuring 500. Among the dead are 15 children.

The force of the blast demolishes the north side of the 9-story concrete building and transforms the placid downtown area into a war zone. Many of the injured stagger from the shell of the federal building, their bodies bloodied, expressions of shock and bewilderment etched on their faces.

In the hours after the bombing, speculation focuses on international terrorists. But two days later, federal authorities take a suspect into custody. He is an American: Timothy J. McVeigh, 27, a decorated Army veteran who served in the Persian Gulf War. They say McVeigh was angered by the 1993 government raid on the Branch Davidian compound near Waco. The Oklahoma City attack comes on the second anniversary of the fiery end of the Waco siege.

On April 25, Terry Nichols, who served with McVeigh in the infantry, and Nichols' brother, James, are charged with conspiracy to make explosive devices unrelated



Two relatives of bombing victims hug each other in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

to the Oklahoma City bombing. Terry Nichols, 40, will be formally charged in the bombing of the federal building on May 1.

On June 2, 1997, a jury finds McVeigh guilty of 11 counts of murder, conspiracy and use of a weapon of mass destruction. Ten days after convicting McVeigh, the jury gives him the death penalty. "He's a traitor, and he deserves to die," prosecutor Beth Wilkinson says. The jurors agree.

On June 4, 1998, Terry Nichols will be sentenced to life in prison for helping carry out the bombing.

March 26: With the Hale-Bopp comet at its closest point to Earth, 39 members of the Heaven's Gate religious cult commit suicide in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. The members believed that the comet was trailed by an alien spaceship that would take them to a higher plane of existence.

June 20: The federal government and the tobacco industry reach a historic settlement, with tobacco companies agreeing to

pay \$368 billion in health-related damages over 25 years. The industry also agrees to eliminate the Marlboro Man and Joe Camel as advertising symbols.

July 1: After 156 years of colonial rule, Hong Kong is returned to China by Britain.

July 23: One of the most intense manhunts in U.S. history ends when 27-year-old Andrew Cunanan commits suicide in Miami Beach, Fla. Cunanan, a gay

gigolo, was being sought in the July 15 killing of fashion designer Gianni Versace and in the slayings of four other men.

1998

April 6: Pakistan tests a medium-range missile capable of hitting neighboring India. On May 11, India will conduct its first nuclear tests in 24 years.

April 23: James Earl Ray, sentenced to 99 years in prison for the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., dies in a Tennessee prison hospital.

March 24: At the Academy Awards, director James Cameron's "Titanic" wins 11 of the 14 Oscars for which it is nominated, including Best Picture.

May 18: The federal government files a sweeping antitrust case against Microsoft Corp. In November 1999, a federal judge will find that Microsoft is a monopoly that has abused its dominance of the computer industry to stifle innovation and competition.

June 7: African-American James Byrd Jr. is beaten, chained by his ankles to the back of a pickup and dragged for three miles in Jasper, Texas. His decapitated body is dumped in a black cemetery. Ex-convicts John William King, Lawrence Russell Brewer and Shawn Berry are arrested. The next year, King and Brewer will be convicted and sentenced to death.

July 24: Russell E. Weston Jr., 41, opens fire in the U.S. Capitol and kills two police officers.

Aug. 7: Bombs explode at U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing at least 257 people and injuring thousands. On Aug. 20, the United States will launch retaliatory missile strikes against terrorist camps in Afghanistan and a chemical plant in Sudan.

Sept. 8: Slugger Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals breaks Roger Maris' season-record 61 round-trippers. Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs will soon surpass Maris' mark too, and the race will be on to see who will end the season on top. The final tally: McGwire 70, Sosa 66.

Nov. 3: Hurricane Mitch strikes Central America, leaving more than 9,000 dead and more than a million homeless.

Nov. 3: Democrats gain five seats in the House of Representatives in the midterm elections, as voters seemingly ignore the continuing White House sex scandal. Four days later, House Speaker Newt Gingrich says he will resign.

Nov. 7: Space shuttle Discovery lands at Cape Canaveral, Fla. with 77-year-old former astronaut John Glenn aboard.

Dec. 16: President Clinton orders air strikes against Iraq after the regime of Saddam Hussein fails to provide full cooperation on weapons inspections. The air strikes end after four days.

1999

Jan. 13: Michael Jordan, 35, retires, and this time he says it's for good. Jordan had announced his retirement once before, in 1993. But he returned to the hardwood in 1995 and led the Chicago Bulls to three more NBA titles.

Aug. 17: One of the century's largest quakes strikes Turkey. More than 17,000 people die.

an Asian-American mail carrier.

Sept. 15, 1999: Larry Gene Ashbrook, 47, bursts into a church in Fort Worth, Texas, and tosses a bomb into an aisle. He shoots and hits 14 people. Seven are killed, among them four teen-agers. Ashbrook ends the rampage by taking his own life.

Nov. 3, 1999: A man in camouflage gear walks into a Seattle shipyard office and shoots four people, killing two, the day after a disgruntled employee fatally guns down seven co-workers at a Xerox repair facility in Honolulu — the worst mass murder in Hawaii's modern history. Byran Uyesugi, 40, later surrendered to Honolulu police.



Katie Trojan (left) and Lauren Beachem grieve for fallen classmates in Littleton, Colo.

When a gunman walks into a kindergarten class in Dublaine, Scotland, on March 13, 1996, killing 16 children and their teacher, wounding others and killing himself, his actions presage an extraordinary stretch of random violence.

Even as the homicide rate is dropping by the end of the decade, some analysts believe there has been an uptick in the category of mass shootings in the workplace and schools.

"It's not that these guys are spontaneous. They don't suddenly explode," said criminologist Jack Levin, director of the Brudnick Center on Violence at Boston's Northeastern University. "The truth is these are

'90s come to bloody close

usually coldblooded executions. The killer typically sees himself as a victim of injustice who wants to get even."

As the decade closes, the body count mounts:

May 21, 1998: Kip Kinkel, 15, opens fire in a school cafeteria in Springfield, Ore., killing one and wounding 23 others. Kinkel also killed his parents.

April 20, 1999: Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, kill 12 students and a teacher at Columbine

High School near Littleton, Colo., before taking their own lives.

July 29, 1999: Mark O. Barton, 44, a day trader angry about his failed investments, kills nine and wounds 13 in Atlanta before committing suicide. He begins his rampage by killing his wife and two children.

Aug. 10, 1999: White supremacist Buford O. Furrow Jr., 37, is charged with murder and attempted murder when he wounds five people at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles. As he flees the scene, he kills

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